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7180th meeting
Thursday, 22 May 2014, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Oh Joon	(Republic of Korea)
Members:	Argentina	Mrs. Perceval
	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Araud
	Jordan	Mr. Omaish
	Lithuania	Ms. Murmokaitė
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Nigeria	Mr. Laro
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Rwanda	Mr. Gasana
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Ms. Power

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Arab Emirates to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2014/348, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, the Central African Republic, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

I wish to welcome Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson, to whom I now give the floor.

The Deputy Secretary-General: I deliver this statement on behalf of the Secretary-General.

"Since the outbreak of the war in Syria, I have persistently called for accountability for perpetrators of grave human rights violations, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The recent attacks against humanitarian convoys and personnel, which may constitute war crimes, add to the urgent need to see action now on accountability in Syria.

"The Security Council has an inescapable responsibility in that regard. States that are members of both the Security Council and the Human Rights Council have a particular duty to end the bloodshed and to ensure justice for the victims of unspeakable crimes.

"In February 2013, the Commission of Inquiry concluded that the International Criminal Court was the appropriate venue to pursue the fight against impunity in Syria. The High Commissioner for Human Rights has repeatedly called on the Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the Court, most recently in April. The Syrian people have a fundamental right to justice. The United Nations and its Member States have a fundamental duty to defend that right. I support mechanisms that can genuinely hold perpetrators to account. It is clear in this case that no side to the tragedy is innocent. Let us also recall that accountability will help prevent further atrocities.

"For more than three years, the Security Council has been unable to agree on measures that could bring an end to this extraordinarily brutal war, which has deeply affected and damaged not only millions of Syrian civilians but also the entire region. If members of the Council continue to be unable to agree even on a measure that could provide some accountability for the ongoing crimes, the credibility of this body and of the entire Organization will continue to suffer.

"When we talk of accountability we should be thinking not only of the parties to the conflict, we should also think of those outside who are fuelling the conflict and exacerbating the suffering by their continued supply of weapons to those who are committing the atrocities.

"I call again on the Council and plead with the members to set aside their differences and to finally work together on a joint approach that can bring an end to this long nightmare for the Syrian people.

They desperately need an end to the violence, and a political solution. We all have a responsibility to help the Syrian people finally see a future of peace."

The President: I thank Mr. Eliasson for his statement.

I shall now give the floor to the member of the Security Council who wishes to make a statement before the voting.

Mr. Araud (France) (*spoke in French*): I have asked to speak before the voting on draft resolution S/2014/348, which France had the honour to present, in order to explain the reason behind our approach. France's proposal is not a new chapter in the divisiveness besetting the Security Council when it comes to the Syrian crisis; on the contrary, it aims at re-establishing the Council's unity around the values shared by its members.

All of us around this table are horrified by the tragedy being experienced by the Syrian people: more than 160,000 deaths, more than 9 million displaced persons and refugees, a country destroyed, hunger and epidemics. That is already an overwhelming tally, against the backdrop of the certainty that both sides have committed atrocities against defenceless civilians. The presentation to the Council and the media of the "Cesar" report several weeks ago, on France's initiative, served to underscore the barbarity. Thousands of photos, verified by independent experts, showed starved and tortured corpses in the regime's prisons.

Killing, torture and rape occur today in Syria not just as atrocious consequences of a civil war, but as part of a deliberate policy to terrorize and punish. Commanders give free rein to their troops to ignore the law — or put more simply, humanity itself. The Government bombs civilian neighbourhoods with explosive barrel bombs, missiles and chemical weapons. Terrorist groups carry out indiscriminate attacks. Tens of thousands of people have been disappeared. Torture and starvation are carried out on a large scale. In a country with an ancient civilization, we are seeing the unleashing of brutality and cruelty whose victims are not mere statistics, behind which we too often hide, but men, women and children with names, faces and loved ones.

In the face of so many trampled lives and the negation of the values for which the Organization stands, nothing is worse than silence. For silence means acquiescence, compromise and complicity. I do not ignore the divisions that exist within the Council; I know the differing analyses of members. I respect them even if I do not share them. But certain facts are clear to all. As Mr. Brahimi said here in the Council a few days ago, there are no prospects in Syria today for negotiation. This is not the time or place to assign responsibility for that, but just to point it out. To argue that the involvement of international justice would undermine the peace process therefore makes no sense, as there is no peace process and, in the short and medium term, there are no prospects for any peace process either.

They refuse to negotiate because they want to be victorious and think they can be. They will not negotiate because they think it is a matter of killing or being killed. They will not negotiate with those whose brothers and wives they have killed or tortured. They are so afraid of their vengance that they must kill them too.

In that context, France's proposal is based on the belief that the impasse should not lead us to turn our gaze away from the atrocities committed in Syria every day. It aims at overcoming our differences in order to focus on the asepct of our humanity we all share. The draft resolution was rewritten in order to make it acceptable to all. It aims to apply in the Syrian situation a principle already agreed in resolutions 2118 (2013) and 2139 (2113), namely, to reject impunity. It also covers the territorial integrity of Syria. With regard to the responsibilities of the parties, it again includes language repeatedly agreed and merely calls for recognizing the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court in the Syrian civil war in line with similar provisions in resolution 1593 (2005), on the situation in Darfur, and in resolution 1970 (2011), on Libya, against which no Member State vote against.

Acting in unison, the Council would thereby say that it would not forget the crimes being committed today on a mass scale in Syria; that it would not forget that leaders tolerated them or even encouraged or ordered them; that in 2014 people could no longer behave as they did in 1942 or 1994; and that it would not allow the state of barbarity to return. Perhaps we could stop an executioner on the verge of committing a crime. In any case, we would restore the Council's honour by allowing it to say the right thing and to re-establish morality over its divisions. I am convinced that, those divisions aside, we share the same values, the same

indignation and the same resolve. The time has come to say so. The time has come to prove it.

The draft resolution I have the honour of presenting to my colleagues for a vote is an appeal to human conscience. It is not a political gesture; it is quite simply a moral act. If the Council were not to adopt it, that would be an insult to the millions of Syrians who are suffering. It would be proof that some have learned nothing from history. It would recall that some, whatever they may claim, have opted for unconditional support for the Damascus regime, whatever crimes it commits, and by the same stroke to exonerate Al-Qaida. Extending equal impunity to all criminals is not a paradox; there is brotherhood in crime.

A veto today would recall that fact. A veto would cover up all crimes; it would be a veto against justice. It would give new justification to the French proposal to limit the use of the right of the veto in the case of mass atrocities.

The President: I shall now put the draft resolution to a vote.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Australia, Chad, Chile, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America

Against:

China, Russian Federation

The President: There were 13 votes in favour, 2 votes against and no abstentions. The draft resolution has not been adopted, owing to the negative vote of a permanent member of the Council.

I now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make a statement after the vote.

Ms. Power (United States of America): Today is about accountability for crimes so extensive and so deadly that they have few equals in modern history. Today is about accountability for Syria, but it is also about accountability for the Security Council. It is the Council's responsibility to stop atrocities if we can and, at a minimum, to ensure that the perpetrators of atrocities are held accountable. It was towards that minimum that we sought to make progress today. My Government applauds the vast majority of Council members that voted to support and the 64 countries that joined us in sponsoring the effort to refer those atrocities to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Sadly, because of the decision of the Russian Federation to back the Syrian regime no matter what it does, the Syrian people will not see justice today. They will see crime but not punishment. On 15 April, the members of the Council were briefed on a report that included 55,000 gruesome photos of the emaciated and tortured bodies of dead Syrians whom world-renowned international lawyers concluded had been methodically eliminated by a Government killing machine.

The photos were reportedly provided by an individual, alias Caesar, who worked for 13 years as a member of the Syrian military police. When the fighting began, he says that he was instructed to record the images of people starved, beaten, tortured and executed by Syria's security forces. Those photos shock and horrify, even after some of us wondered if there was anything that the regime could do that would still shock. Syrian soldiers had already compelled doctors not to care for the wounded, dragged patients out of hospital beds, laid siege to whole neighbourhoods, cut off access to desperately needed supplies, and carried out chemical weapons attacks and barrel bomb attacks with the full confidence that meaningful action by the Council would be obstructed.

A judicial process does more than hold perpetrators accountable. It also allows victims to speak. The vetoes today have prevented the victims of atrocities from testifying at The Hague for now. Nonetheless, it is important for us in the Council today to hear the kind of testimony we might have heard if Russia and China had not raised their hands to oppose accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Because of the vetoes just cast, one of Al-Assad's victims, Qusai Zakarya, will not soon be called to testify before the International Criminal Court. But Qusai's story of life in Moadamiyah during the siege, as hard as it is to hear, must be heard. Qusai Zakarya is in the Council with us today, and I would like to ask him to stand.

Today, I will tell Qusai's story as he told it to us. Qusai's home, Moadamiyah, just outside Damascus, was one of the Al-Assad regime's prime targets. During the August 2013 chemical weapons attacks, Qusai ran out to the street and tried to help his neighbours. He quickly lost his ability to breathe. His eyes afire, Qusai's heart stopped, and he was left for dead before a friend stumbled upon him and realized that he had again begun breathing. Qusai recounts his bewilderment as

he watched neighbours suffocate, friends panic and families perish. He remembers the face of a 13-year-old boy just a few feet from his home. He describes the boy as so innocent. He recalls that he had done nothing, yet the expression on the 13-year-old's face was the most terrifying thing that Qusai has ever seen as white foam streamed from his mouth and death crept in.

If Qusai could testify, he might tell the story of his neighbour, Abou Mohammed, a waiter in Damascus, while his wife and daughter lived in Moadamiyah. Abou Mohammed's daughter was seven years old. She had a heart condition that required medication not available in besieged Moadamiyah, so Abou Mohammed did what any father would do and attempted to bring her medicine from Damascus. He was captured by Al-Assad's mercenaries, tortured with acid and ultimately killed. His body was thrown on Highway 40. Without medicine to treat her heart condition, Abou Mohammed's seven-year-old daughter died. Qusai might also tell the story of Rana, an 18-month-old baby girl. Rana's dad ran a grocery store before the siege. After the siege, he watched as his daughter Rana died from malnutrition because she could not get milk that used to sit on his store's shelves.

Qusai has said that when he walks around the United States, he notices people in restaurants getting on with day-to-day life. He notices the small leftovers that we leave on our plates, and he remembers watching his neighbours' desperation to get a small piece of rotten bread in Moadamiyah. Qusai's account of his experience in Moadamiyah deserves to be heard. It deserves to be examined by an independent court and, if crimes are proven, those responsible deserve to be held accountable.

The vetoes cast today prevent that from happening. Strikingly, those vetoes also protect the monstrous terrorist organizations operating in Syria. Those who would behead civilians and attack religious minorities will not be soon held accountable at the ICC either, for today's vetoes by Russia and China protect not only Al-Assad and his henchmen but also the radical Islamic terrorists who continue a fundamentalist assault on the Syrian people that knows no decency or humanity. Such vetoes have aided impunity not just for Al-Assad but for terrorist groups, as well.

In the past, when extraordinary crimes have been carried out, the International Criminal Court has been able to act. Why is it that the people of Uganda, Darfur, Libya, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Kenya deserve international and impartial justice, but the Syrian people do not? Why should the International Criminal Court pursue accountabililty for the atrocities in Africa but not those in Syria, where the worst horrors of our time are being perpetrated? For those who have asked the Security Council that very reasoanble question, today they have their answer — the Russian and Chinese vetoes.

Our grandchildren will ask us years from now how we could have failed to bring justice to people living in hell on Earth. The history books may well depict photographs taken by Caesar of emaciated, acid-scarred corpses juxtaposed with a photo of the two members of the Council that prevented justice for the victims, such as Qusai, who longed to see the end of such horrors.

Today is therefore about accountability not just for the victims of Al-Assad's regime or Qusai and his neighbours in Moadamiyah but for members of the Security Council. Month after month, year after year, we have each spoken about the importance of justice and the need for accountability in Syria. Victims and survivors have begged for action and cried out for justice. The international community has supported the ad hoc efforts to collect evidence to record testimony. We have launched commissions of inquiry to find facts and held meeting after meeting but before today, we have not put forward a draft resolution to refer the situation to the International Criminal Court. We have not done so because we were afraid that it would be vetoed.

However, the victims of Al-Assad's industrial killing machine and of terrorist attacks deserve more than to have more dead counted. They deserve to have each member of the Security Council counted and held to account. They deserve to have history record those who stood with them and were willing to raise their hands to deny them the chance of justice. While there may be no accountability before the ICC today for the horrific crimes being carried out against the Syrian people, there should be accountability for those members of the Council that have prevented such accountability.

The representative of Syria and perhaps of Russia may suggest that the draft resolution voted on today was biased, and I agree. It was biased in the direction of establishing facts and tilted in the direction of a peace that comes from holding accountable individuals, not entire groups, such as the Alawites, Sunnis or Kurds.

The outcome of today's vote, disappointing as it is, will not end our pursuit of justice.

My Government will continue to work with the many other Governments and organizations to encourage and facilitate the further gathering of evidence. There is no limit to our determination to see that the victims of the atrocities in Syria and their loved ones receive answers in accordance with the majesty of law. In that quest, we will be guided by the fundamental principle of civilization, which has truly stood the test of time. As Solon, the Athenian sage, said more than 2,500 years ago, "Those who are not wronged, no less than those who are wronged, exert themselves to punish the wrongdoers." The overwhelming majority of Council members affirmed that today.

Mr. Gasana (Rwanda): Rwanda takes the floor to explain its vote on draft resolution S/2014/348, which requests the referral of the situation of the Syrian Arab Republic to the International Criminal Court (ICC). I thank Mr. Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General, for his statement and acknowledge the presence among us of Ambassador Bashar Ja'afari, Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations.

Rwanda's position on the ICC, which we have expressed on several occasions in the Council, is well known, The debate on the International Criminal Court is indeed legitimate and should continue within the United Nations with a view to together achieving a fair and more efficient criminal justice system that is better able to fight against impunity for the most serious crimes.

However, we are not here today to hold another substantive debate on the ICC, as Ambassador Samantha Power said. I fully agree with her. Our grandchildren will one day ask us what we did to stop the Syrian tragedy. We are here as fathers, mothers, human beings and representatives of the community of nations, who should listen to the voices of the more than 160,000 people slain over the past three years in Syria. That reminds us that the Council cannot be inured to mass atrocities. We are here as a collective body, vested with the responsibility to maintain international peace and security. That includes the responsibility to protect and the obligation of hold accountable the perpetrators of the most serious crimes. Children are being gassed, women sexually abused and men tortured. Barrel bombs have been used against hospitals and schools. The communities devastated by the terrorist attacks in Syria are living in endless horror.

Rwanda has repeatedly called for a political solution to the Syrian crisis within the framework of the Geneva peace process. We have also endorsed the call of the Secretary-General, urging all concerned States Members of the United Nations to refrain from supplying weapons to aid any side in Syria. We agree that no concerned State has heeded that call. Nonetheless, the magnitude of human rights violations in Syria requires immediate action by the international community, in particular the Security Council. We all know that the Syrian jurisdiction is currently not in a position to hold the perpetrators of mass atrocities in Syria to account.

We therefore thank France for introducing the draft resolution as a strong signal to the warring parties in Syria that the Security Council is committed to accountability. That is why Rwanda voted in favour of the draft resolution. Despite the failure to adopt it, which we regret, Rwanda has not lost hope in justice and accountability in Syria. However, to achieve that goal, we need the permanent members of the Security Council to open their minds and hearts in order to find a solution to such a humanitarian and human rights disaster. Despite the real achievements in eliminating the Syrian chemical programme, it is clear that the Council's credibility in maintaining international peace and security remains seriously challenged over its inability to end the horror being committed in Syria.

As co-chair of the Group of Friends on the Responsibility to Protect, and given our own history of genocide, Rwanda takes this opportunity to reiterate its call to all permanent members of the Security Council to consider seriously and carefully the French proposal of a code of conduct among themselves by which they will voluntarily refrain from using the veto in situations of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. In that context, pending a meaningful reform of the Security Council, we believe that such a code of conduct could be a necessary tool to enable the Council to re-embrace the moral values enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In conclusion, all of us must commit ourselves to putting action for humanity above inaction for interests. That is the only way we can honour the Syrian victims and show to a sceptical world that we, the members of the Security Council, have learned lessons from the past and have decided to live up to the noble mission with which the community of nations has entrusted us.

Sir Mark Lyall Grant (United Kingdom): We have heard time and again in this Chamber the horrific scale of violations and abuses carried out against civilians by the Syrian regime over the past three years of the conflict: the indiscriminate bombardment of civilian inhabited areas; horrendous violations, including systematic murder and torture in regime detention centres; the arbitrary denial of humanitarian access to those in need; and the use of siege and starvation as a weapon of war.

Today's draft resolution S/2014348 /offered Syrians the prospect of an end to impunity for the individuals who committed those atrocities. Holding perpetrators to account for their actions is a vital element of a sustainable peace. No settlement in Syria can be real or lasting without justice. The draft resolution would have given the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court a mandate to investigate all war crimes and crimes against humanity perpetrated during the conflict, regardless of the identity or affiliation of the perpetrator.

The draft resolution had the support of 13 members of the Security Council, 65 sponsors, more than 100 non-governmental organizations from all around the world, and the Syrian National Coalition. That shows the strength of international feeling on this issue. It is to Russia and China's shame that they have chosen to block efforts to achieve justice for the Syrian people. It is disgraceful that they have yet again vetoed the Security Council's efforts to take action in response to the appalling human rights violations being committed every day in Syria. Russia and China will have to justify their behaviour, not only to those States and organizations, but to so many of the Syrian people who continue to suffer under Al-Assad's brutal regime.

The United Kingdom is committed to accountability. Despite today's vote, we will continue to look for ways to ensure that there can be accountability in Syria. We will continue to support efforts to document atrocities and will remain ready for the time when those responsible can be held to account. The perpetrators of appalling crimes in Syria may be able to hide behind Russian and Chinese vetoes for now, but they will not be able to evade justice forever.

Mr. Omaish (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): Today, Jordan voted in favour of draft resolution S/2014/348 based on our deep conviction regarding the principles of criminal justice and the need for criminal accountability, in an attempt to put an end to the policy of impunity pursued since the beginning of the Syrian crisis and based on our belief in the principles of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. We would like to express our deep regret that the Council was unable to adopt the draft resolution today.

At the same time, we would like to emphasize our support for the French initiative, which is designed to limit the use of the veto when the Security Council is voting on draft resolutions related to the perpetration of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, in order to avoid a repetition of what we have seen today.

Ms. Lucas (Luxembourg) (*spoke in French*): For over three years, Syria has been foundering each day a little further into the horror of an indiscriminate violence that kills in a climate of absolute impunity. That absolute impunity is one of the reasons that the parties to the conflict in Syria continue to engage in a bloodbath in which civilians are the first victims.

Evidence of atrocities in Syria accumulate as succeeding reports are issued, whether it be the reports of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry established by the Human Rights Council, the reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Caesar (S/2014/244, annex) on systematic torture committed on an industrial scale in Syrian prisons, or non-governmental organizations' reports, including on the use of barrel bombs against the civilian population. Syria is at war, yes, but war does not justify everything. Even war has its rules under international law, and those rules are violated every day in Syria.

More than 160,000 people have already died in the Syrian conflict. The list of atrocities in Syria is too long for us to list them all, but I would like to mention here the untold suffering inflicted on children in the conflict. More than 10,000 children have been killed. Countless children have been injured or maimed by aerial bombardments in populated areas, with Syrian Government forces indiscriminately using cluster munitions and barrel bombs. Children are arrested, recruited as combatants, arbitrarily detained, abused and tortured. A number of children have been victims of sexual violence or have disappeared. All parties to the conflict have targeted schools and hospitals or have used them for military purposes.

To end the conflict and atrocities in Syria, it is essential to work for a political solution. Everyone recognizes as much. But the efforts to reach a political solution are at an impasse, mainly because the Syrian

authorities refuse to discuss a genuine political transition. For our part, we cannot accept the political impasse being used by some of our partners as an excuse to prevent us from taking action against impunity in Syria. Fighting against impunity is not incompatible with the search for a political solution — quite the contrary. To fight against impunity is to fight against precisely the elements that fuel war and violence. To fight against impunity is to deter perpetrators from committing more crimes. We deeply believe that justice is an essential ingredient — an indispensable ingredient — to restoring peace in Syria.

That is why, since January 2013, along with 57 other States, Luxembourg has pleaded relentlessly with the Security Council to refer to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) the situation that has prevailed in Syria since March 2011, without any exceptions and without distinguishing among the alleged perpetrators of crimes. The victims in Syria are begging us to give them at least that, a glimmer of hope that ultimately they will have justice and the perpetrators of the heinous crimes that have been committed in the country will be held accountable for their actions. The ICC was established precisely in order to end impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole, and to ensure the effective prosecution of such crimes when a State is unwilling or unable to do so. That is certainly the case in Syria.

For that reason, Luxembourg sponsored and voted in favour of today's draft resolution (S/2014/348), proposed by France to the Security Council, to refer the situation in Syria since March 2011 to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. Beyond what divides us, there is a set of shared values, a shared humanity and a shared belief in the dignity and worth of human beings that should unite us and generate unanimity in the Security Council. The draft resolution proposed by France reflects those shared values. Without polemicizing, it was aimed at referring to the ICC all violations committed by all parties to the conflict in Syria — the widespread violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed by the Syrian authorities and pro-Government militias, on the one hand, and the violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed by the non-State armed groups, on the other.

It is with deep regret that we have to conclude that our shared humanity and values have not prevailed today, and that the draft resolution could not be adopted because two permanent members, Russia and China, voted against it. This double veto is doubly damaging because it will have a serious impact on the future of the Syrian people, who daily endure the horrors of an endless spiral of violence, and because it affects the Security Council's credibility and effectiveness, condemning it to inaction in the face of impunity. Today's vote has highlighted the impasse the Security Council finds itself in, thanks to the abuse of the right of veto. In that regard, Luxembourg supports France's proposal that the five permanent members refrain from resorting to the right of veto in cases of mass atrocities, genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity. A voluntary code of conduct such as this would help to strengthen the Council's credibility and, above all, its effectiveness in protecting civilian populations.

Despite today's vote, we will not throw up our hands. Faced with the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Syria, we will never stop calling for justice for the Syrians. And we will not give up the hope that our shared humanity will ultimately prevail.

Mr. Barros Melet (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): We deeply regret that the draft resolution we have just voted on (S/2014/348), which sought to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court for the investigation and subsequent punishment of those responsible, whoever they may be, could not be adopted. On many occasions Chile has joined those calling on the countries that enjoy the right of veto to refrain from using it in situations involving crimes against humanity, war crimes, genocide or ethnic cleansing. We believe that the Security Council should have the ability to act in support of the values and principles that are most fundamental for humankind. Chile sponsored the draft resolution in a spirit of openness and in the conviction that it represented a necessary step in obtaining justice for all the victims of the conflict in Syria, without any distinction between the various sides.

Our country is a party to the Rome Statute and, as such, we believe that its integrity must be upheld so as to enable it to be fully implemented and effective in the fight against impunity. The International Criminal Court has shown itself to be the best tool for investigating the acts that have produced the draft resolution that could not be adopted today.

Mr. Quinlan (Australia): Today the Security Council has again failed the people of Syria. The

war there is now in its fourth year. The country has been broken apart, possibly irretrievably. Almost half its population of more than 20 million people have fled or been displaced. One family flees Syria every 60 seconds. We face a regime whose military strategy is based on the deliberate targeting of civilians through sieges, the use of starvation as a weapon of war, indiscriminate aerial bombardment, the targeted use of barrel bombs on residential neighbourhoods, arbitrary denial of humanitarian access and medical supplies, the targeting of hospitals and medical personnel, mass systematic torture, sexual violence and execution, forced depopulation of towns and cities and denial of humanitarian supplies to its own citizens not living in Government-held areas.

The humanitarian crisis, the greatest in this century, is spiralling downwards. There is no solution in sight. All sides in the conflict, including the extremists and terrorists who have sought to hijack the opposition, are guilty of terrible crimes. There is a pervasive culture of impunity. No one is held accountable. The Independent International Commission of Inquiry for Syria has documented extensive evidence over the past three years against those who have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has concluded that such crimes have been committed and over the past three years and has consistently called for referral of the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court (ICC). In April, the Council itself was shown the chilling photographic evidence, contained in the Caesar report (S/2014/244, annex), documenting the widespread and systematic torture and execution on an industrial scale of detainees held by the Syrian regime. The Secretary-General has persistently called for accountability for the crimes we are seeing in Syria. The International Criminal Court was specifically established to ensure that those most responsible for the worst mass-atrocity crimes would be held to account, particularly in cases where their national authorities were unwilling or unable to do so domestically.

The Syrian authorities have not only failed in that responsibility, they are themselves among the perpetrators of such crimes. The international community must therefore act. Australia was one of 58 United Nations States Members who wrote to the Council 18 months ago seeking referral of the situation in Syria to the ICC, and the situation has become so much worse since then. The number of sponsors of today's draft resolution (S/2014/348), 65, and the 13 votes in its favour, should send an unmistakable message to those responsible for these crimes. The draft resolution may have been vetoed, but there is no statute of limitations on the crimes being committed in Syria, and we will continue to pursue justice for the victims.

The Security Council has a responsibility to protect, a responsibility mandated by all our leaders at their World Summit in 2005, and to prevent mass atrocities where we can. The Council's role was specifically recognized in the Rome Statute, because accountability is central to protection and to the Council's fundamental responsibilities relating to the maintenance of international peace and security. The use of the veto to block a balanced draft resolution, attempting to deliver accountability for the commission of mass-atrocity crimes, comes at a great human cost. The Council will, correctly, be judged harshly for that failure. At the very least, today's failure underlines the importance of voluntary restraint on the use of the veto in situations where mass atrocities are so clear.

This is the fourth veto in the Council in three years to prevent action in Syria. In implementing our mandate on peace and security, the Council is now engaged in authorizing some of the highest numbers of peacekeepers ever and increasingly in robust operations to protect civilians in many crises. We are doing that by common agreement among all members, as we should. But when we fail, as we have again on Syria today, the consequences can be devastating. The victims of conflict have a right to the support of the Security Council and action on our part. The Council has a responsibility to provide that support and to act.

Ms. Murmokaitė (Lithuania): I think we all knew what the outcome of today's voting would be, and yet it is profoundly disappointing and disturbing to see a fourth veto on the situation in Syria, this time on the referral of the Syrian conflict to the International Criminal Court (ICC). We thank France for creating draft resolution S/2014/348, which was sponsored by 65 States, including my own.

With more than 160,000 lives lost, 2.7 million refugees and close to 6.5 million displaced persons, this veto is what it is — an endorsement of impunity. It is a license for all perpetrators of human rights violations, mass atrocities, crimes against humanity and war crimes, in Syria and elsewhere, to continue those grisly acts at will. Gross violations of international

humanitarian law and human rights law continue in Syria on a daily basis. Barbaric crimes are being committed on a massive scale — crimes that should have no place in the twenty-first century. Terrorism is on the rise. Starvation is used as a weapon of war. Humanitarian access is denied humanitarian aid manipulated to force surrender. The level of physical destruction and devastation is beyond description. A generation of Syria's children — 5.7 million, according to UNICEF — are growing up robbed of a childhood, education, home and consequently of their future. They represent a huge lost generation.

Last month, during an Arria Formula meeting, many of us were shocked into silence by the images contained in the Caesar report (S/2014/244, annex) of thousands of emaciated bodies bearing multiple signs of horrific torture. To us, shocking as they were, these were just images. To countless victims in Syria, they are the gruesome facts of their daily lives. More recently, many of us witnessed another testimony to the atrocities committed by the Syrian regime, resulting from the indiscriminate use of barrel bombs — again, images too shocking to bear, yet gruesome facts of daily life for the people of Syria.

Yet none of that seems to have moved those who once again chose to veto a Council resolution on Syria, and who by doing so chose to protect the victimizers, not the victims, and opened even wider the floodgates of bloodshed and impunity. The Syrian regime had ample opportunities to first prevent and then stop the bloodshed. It never sought to do so. A referral to the ICC would not and could not have impeded any process towards peace and reconciliation, because no such process was taking place. All sides think they can win the battle by force, which means even more civilian deaths and even more destruction. The long-suffering people of Syria deserve better.

As a permanent international court with a mandate to prosecute war crimes and crimes against humanity when national authorities are unable or unwilling to do so, the ICC was created to address exactly the type of situation that exists in Syria today. Although the Court's work can be only one piece of the larger justice and accountability effort needed in that war-ravaged country, Syria's referral could have been a crucial first step in the right direction. By today's veto, that first crucial step towards justice and accountability was callously denied.

Today's veto is a stand on the wrong side of justice and accountability — a stand on the wrong side of humanity. And yet, I am encouraged to see that today, so many more chose to stand on the right side of history.

Mrs. Perceval (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): Since we joined the Council in January 2013 and on numerous occasions, Argentina has supported the referral of the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court so that the Court could impartially exercise its jurisdiction with regard to all parties to one of the most cruel, atrocious and overwhelming realities of our time.

Allowing the perpetuation of impunity to be the response to the crimes committed by all parties in Syria corrodes not only the ethical, political and legal foundations of the United Nations, but also the Council's responsibility to maintain international peace and security. It is untenable and even offensive today to seek to present a false dichotomy between peace and justice. We have all learned that there is no justice without peace and that peace is endangered without justice.

Following our political resolve, our ethical responsibility and our respect for international law, Argentina voted in favour of the referral of the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court. Our sole, firm and clear objective was the investigation and prosecution by the Court of perpetrators of the grave crimes idenfitied in the Rome Statute and the recognition of the inalienable rights of their victims to truth, memory, justice and reparation. At the same time, Argentina decided not to be a sponsor of the initiative, because it was also our objective to preserve the integrity of the Statute, which requires referrals to the Council to be formulated in the appropriate terms so as not to undermine the legal foundations of the Rome Statute itself or the Court's validity and effectiveness.

On the one hand, it would seem that once again we are to accept as normal the exercise of selective justice. We should not be surprised that in comparable situations where heinous crimes are committed, some are considered appropriate to be referred to the Court while others are not. On the other hand, there seems to be an attempt to make us believe that undermining the integrity of legal instruments in no way hinders the objective of achieving justice. In some cases, transcendent values are invoked, whereas in others sophisticated arguments are brought into play, although

they mainly lean on the pragmatic principle that the end justifies the means. We have learned from experience, however, that not every means leads to the desired end.

For Argentina and many other Member States, neither the normalization of arbitrary behaviour, nor legal regression nor pragmatism without values are valid options. In our view, every heinous crime must be subject to justice, wherever it may be committed and whoever its perpetrators may be. Just as with human rights, we cannot claim to respect some but not to recognize others. We cannot maintain that we defend the applicability of some provisions of a norm, but not its entirety.

In 2005, when the Council adopted resolution 1593 (2005), referring the situation in Darfur to the International Criminal Court, Argentina, as an elected member of the Council at the time, maintained that certain elements of the resolution should not become permanent. However, today, we face the same scenario, since the draft text before us reflects the intention to refer only certain individuals, allows exemptions regarding the scope of the jurisdiction of the Court and the obligation to cooperate with it, and includes a paragraph stating that the Council recognizes that expenses incurred in connection with the referral will not be borne by the United Nations but by the States parties to the Rome Statute or through voluntary contributions, thereby contradicting the provision of the Statute. Is it necessary to recall that the Security Council has the authority to compel all Members of the United Nations, both parties and non-parties to the Rome Statute, to cooperate with the Court? It is disappointing that the Council does not put that ethical obligation into practice.

With regard to exceptions of jurisdiction for States not party to the Statute and the lack of United Nations funding for referrals, I must mention not only Argentina's strong objection to such provisions but also our understanding of the outcome, including for the two previous referrals. In accordance with the Rome Statute, in a referral the Court exercises its jurisdiction over nationals of parties and non-parties to the Rome Statute. The Security Council does not have the power to declare an amendment to the Statute in order to grant immunity to nationals of States non-parties who commit crimes under the Statute in a situation referred to the Court. That is to say, nothing in the text of paragraph 7 or of any other paragraph of the draft resolution on which we have just voted would have had the power to amend the standard of the Statute with regard to the Court's jurisdiction in a given situation or the fact that if a decision is needed, the Court is ultimately the judge of its own jurisdiction.

With regard to the funding for referrals, the provision in paragraph 8 is not in accordance with the Rome Statute and the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court; Relationship Agreement. It is blatantly unfair. Argentina disagrees with the Council's claim that the expenses of the referrral will not be met by the United Nations. The Council cannot assume powers that it does not possess, such as that of deciding the funding of the referral. Under the Charter of the United Nations, that is within the General Assembly's jurisdiction. That is also clear in paragraph 8, which refers to General Assembly resolution 67/295. When it considers it timely, the General Assembly therefore can, under the Relationship Agreement, decide on the funding of referrals made by the Council.

In conclusion, I would like to say that this is an extremely sensitive and regrettable meeting. What we should have done in good faith and failed to do by speaking with one voice was in the end achieved through powerlessness. Countless victims have heard that the Council was unable to reach agreement on putting an end to the deadly violence, eliminating the humiliating impunity or helping to restore the lost peace in Syria.

However, the noble task and functioning of the ICC in a multilateral system that seeks to end impunity, establish the rule of law, promote and encourage respect for human rights and achieve a lasting peace in accordance with international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as stated in the Kampala Declaration, does not allow us to believe that we will never achieve what we have been unable to do so to date. There is too much injustice for us not to be fully confident that the Security Council sooner rather than later will change its perception of power and its way of working.

Mr. Cherif (Chad) (*spoke in French*): For more than three years, the situation in Syria has worsened daily. There is no sign of improvement or calm on the horizon. Nearly every day brings its share of new victims. Syrian civilians, in particular women, children and the elderly, are caught in the middle and continue to be the targets of deliberate attacks, daily facing air strikes, artillery fire, barrel bombs, forced displacement, car bombings,

rape, torture, abduction and kidnapping. Such acts are serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law and their perpetrators, whatever their affiliation, should be brought to justice.

Chad has always denounced and firmly condemns all kinds of violence and atrocities against civilians by whomsoever. Unfortunately, we note with regret that all such atrocities have not only gone unpunished but have become more frequent as the conflict escalates. We believe that the scope of violence and the lack of prospects for a peaceful way out of the crisis jeopardize the conditions conducive to the credible and fair prosecution of the most serious crimes in national courts. In that regard, not to support an initiative seeking to combat impunity and the denial of justice would be a serious failure by Chad as a State party to the Rome Statute. In that strong belief and wanting to contribute to the common effort to put an end to the suffering of victims, Chad voted in favour of the draft resolution that we have just voted on but, unfortunately, not adopted.

While voting in favour on principle, Chad regrets that the draft resolution, like those on Darfur and Libya, provides for the discretionary treatment of a category of State nationals with respect to the same crime. However, such exemptions, which are in some cases justified, are difficult for victims to accept and undermine the principle of settling scores and the ideal of independent and credible international criminal justice for all, without exception, for the most serious crimes.

In conclusion, Chad reiterates its appeal to all parties to the Syrian conlfict to immediately meet their obligation to protect civilians, humanitarian personnel and medical vehicles and to allow the humanitarian agencies unimpeded access to the entire civilian population.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We understand the motives of many delegations that supported or co-sponsored draft resolution S/2014/348, referring the case of Syria to the International Criminal Court (ICC). We share the emotions elicited in them by the crisis in Syria, which has dragged on for far too long. It is hard to witness the destruction, loss of life and suffering of the people.

It is more difficult to discern the motives that led France to initiate the draft and put it to a vote, fully aware in advance of the fate it would meet. There has been no dearth of complaints about the lack of unity concerning Syria among the five permanent members (P5) of the Security Council. Indeed, when that unity is present, we manage to achieve concrete positive results. Among such results, undoubtedly, was the adoption of resolution 2118 (2013) on the destruction of the Syrian chemical stockpile. That programme is about to be successfully completed. Another important benchmark was resolution 2139 (2014), on humanitarian issues.

P5 unity is important. After all, it is the reason for which France has been pushing for P5 engagement in the political settlement of the crisis. It has failed, however, to advance any positive substantive ideas. Why deal such a blow to P5 unity at this stage? Is it just to try once again to create a pretext for armed intervention in the Syrian conflict? We must not overlook the fact that the head of French diplomacy saw fit to take advantage of his recent visit to Washington, D.C., to publicly criticize the United States for refusing to shower missiles and bombs on Syria last fall.

It should be pointed out that this damage to P5 unity is being inflicted at a critical point in the efforts to find a political solution to the Syrian crisis. The involuntary hiatus created by the resignation of Lakhdar Brahimi should be used for an in-depth, fair and collective analysis of the situation and to seek out any possible resource to break the vicious cycle of violence. In that respect, there is food for thought contained in the political testament left behind by Lakhdar Brahimi for the Security Council on 13 May. That is exactly what the draft resolution presented by Russia is aimed at: fostering the process of local truces. That draft resolution is not to the liking of our Western colleagues. They claim that the settlements already achieved cannot be used as standards.

One cannot help recalling the Russian saying that a bad peace is better than a good quarrel. What are our Western colleagues proposing instead? They are offering talk, which is good for naive people, and assering that they will supply new types of weapons to good opposition groups only. Their list of good guys now includes the Al-Nusra Front, which has openly confessed to a series of brutal terrorist attacks, including the recent one in Aleppo that claimed the lives of dozens of civilians. I would note that our Western colleagues are demanding that cross-border humanitarian deliveries to Syria be conducted through border crossings controlled by the Front. At the same time, they have long blocked any condemnation by

the Security Council of the numerous terrorist attacks committed in Syria.

Pursuing regime change by force in Syria at all costs will prolong the crisis and undermine the Geneva negotiations. It is telling that Ahmad Jarba, the leader of the National Coalition, made no effort to show up to the Geneva negotiations, and is instead travelling the world in search of weapons. Moaz al-Khatib, one of his predecessors, was removed from office just for attempting to launch talks with Damascus to stop the bloodshed. In that context, it is striking that there is not a single word on the political settlement and the negotiating process among Syrians in the communiqué issued on 15 May following the meeting of the so-called London 11. The Western troika took great pains to dissuade the Secretary-General and his Special Representative from calling another round of Geneva negotiations.

What justice can one talk about when the overriding policy is aimed at escalating the conflict? The draft resolution rejected today reveals an attempt to use the ICC to further inflame political passions and lay the ultimate groundwork for eventual outside military intervention. It should be noted that the so-called Caesar resport (S/2014/244, annex), which was used to build up tension in the run-up to the introduction of the draft resolution, was based on unconfirmed information obtained from unverifiable sources and therefore cannot serve as a platform for taking such a serious decision.

One cannot ignore the fact that the last time the Security Council referred a case to the International Criminal Court (ICC) — the Libyan dossier, through resolution 1970 (2011) — it did not help resolve the crisis, but instead added fuel to the flames of conflict. After the cessation of hostilities, the ICC did not exactly rise to the occasion, to put it mildly. It did not contribute to a return of normalcy or justice in Libya, and instead evaded the most pressing issues. The deaths of civilians as a result of NATO bombardments was somehow left outside its scope. Our colleagues from NATO countries arrogantly refused to address that issue altogether. They even refuse to apologize, even as they waxed eloquent about shame. They advocate fighting impunity but are themselves practicing a policy of all-permissiveness.

The United States frequently indicates the ICC option for others, but is reluctant to accede to the Rome Statute itself. In todays's draft resolution, the United States insisted on an exemption for itself and its citizens. Great Britain is a party to the ICC, but for some reason is unenthusiastic about the exploration in the Court of crimes committed by British nationals during the Iraq war. If the United States and the United Kingdom were to together refer the Iraqi dossier to the ICC, the world would see that they are truly against impunity.

We proceed from the premise that the Geneva communiqué of 30 June 2012 (S/2012/522, annex) remains at the core of efforts to settle the Syrian crisis. The communiqué interprets the principles of accountability and national reconciliation as interrelated, leaving the leading role in that process to the Syrians themselves.

We are convinced that justice in Syria will eventually prevail. Those guilty of perpetrating grave crimes will be punished, but if that is to happen, peace is needed first and foremost. Russia will continue to make every effort to stop the bloodshed as soon as possible. We call upon our Western colleagues to abandon their futile, dead-end policy of endlessly escalating the Syrian crisis. We invite everyone who truly values the interests of the Syrian people to join us in our efforts to find a Syrian political settlement. Judging, as France has today, that the political process is dead is just irresponsible. Indeed, it is treachery towards the Syrian people.

Mr. Wang Min (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): For over three years, the escalation of the conflict in Syria has inflicted deep suffering on the Syrian people and posed a serious challenge to the countries of the region and the international community. China has always maintained that all parties in Syria should respect human rights and international humanitarian law and prevent innocent people from being harmed during the conflict. China is firmly opposed to all violations of international humanitarian law or serious violations of human rights committed by all parties to the conflict in Syria. However, with regard to draft resolution S/2014/348, on which the Council voted earlier, China has some serious reservations.

First, China believes that any action to seek recourse to the International Criminal Court (ICC) to prosecute the perpetrators of serious violations should be conducted on the basis of respect for State judicial sovereignty and the principle of complementarity. China is not a State party to the Rome Statute. China always has reservations concerning the referral by the Security Council of particular country situations to the ICC. This is our principled position.

Secondly, efforts to seek a political settlement to the question of Syria are encountering difficulties. The international community must shore up its confidence, remain patient and be steadfastly committed to the overall direction of the political settlement. What is most urgently needed now is to urge the Government of Syria and the opposition to immediately implement a ceasefire and put an end to the violence in order to start a third round of negotiations in Geneva so as to advance the political process and embark on a political transition. In the current circumstances, to forcibly refer the situation in Syria to the ICC is not conducive either to building trust among all parties in Syria or to an early resumption of the negotiations in Geneva. It will only jeopardize the efforts made by the international community to push for a political settlement.

Thirdly, for some time now, the Security Council has maintained unity and coordination on the question of Syria, thanks to efforts by Council members, including China, to accommodate the major concerns of all parties. At a time when seriously diverging views exist among the parties concerning the draft resolution, we believe that the Council should continue holding consultations, rather than forcing a vote on the draft resolution, in order to avoid undermining Council unity or obstructing coordination and cooperation on questions such as Syria and other major serious issues. Regrettably, China's approach has not been taken on board; China therefore voted against the draft resolution.

I have already clearly elaborated my country's position and explicitly highlighted the facts and reasons. Just now, the United States, the United Kingdom and other Western countries have made totally unfounded accusations against China. That is irresponsible and hypocritical. China firmly rejects the slander expressed by those Western countries against China.

China has continued to uphold an objective and impartial position on the question of Syria. China pursues no self interest on the issue, much less shield any party, faction or persons in Syria. As a permanent member of the Council and a responsible member of the international community, China has remained committed to seeking a political settlement to the question of Syria.

China has endeavoured comprehensively and in a balanced manner to engage with the Government of Syria and opposition parties to urge them, based on the demands of all sides, to seek a middle path appropriate to the country's conditions and accommodating the interests of all sides through dialogue and negotiation.

China is highly concerned about the humanitarian situation in Syria and sympathizes with the suffering of the Syrian people. It has provided humanitarian assistance to the Syrian people and Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries through various channels on many occasions. China attaches great importance to the legitimate concerns of all sides and of the Arab countries on the question of Syria. We remain willing to maintain close contact with all parties and promote active efforts to seek a political solution to the question of Syria and to maintain peace and stability in the Middle East region.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my national capacity.

The Republic of Korea voted in favour of draft resolution S/2014/348. The situation in Syria requires resolute and swift action by the Security Council. Seeking accountability should be part of that action, because sustainable peace is not possible without justice. That is why we voted in favour of the draft resolution, which referred the crimes against humanity in Syria to the International Criminal Court.

It is extremely regrettable that the Council was not able to agree to take action due to the vetoes. We are letting down the aspirations of the international community and of the Syrian people. It is also disappointing to see the misplaced perception that efforts to deliver justice cannot be compatible with efforts to seek a political solution.

Having said that, I still believe that the Council cannot afford to take today's vote as a lasting setback in our efforts. The current situation on the ground is simply too serious and continues to call for effective action on the part of the Council. The Republic of Korea remains committed to working with other members to answer the call.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

The representative of France has asked for the floor to make a further statement.

Mr. Araud (France) (*spoke in French*): I had hoped that the tone of my speech would have demonstrated to everyone seated around this table and in the Chamber our determination that the Council not again manifest the same divisions. I wanted my statement to reflect my

desire to respect the dignity of the debate — a debate that has to do with the infinite suffering of the Syrian people — and my desire that those who committed crimes be one day held to account for them. I see no other way except to appeal to the International Criminal Court. It was therefore a quite simple intervention. I regret the fact that the representative of the Russian Federation replied with an invective and direct personal attacks. I will refer to four points raised in my Russian colleague's intervention: absurdity, confusion, error and, lastly, effrontery.

With respect to absurdity, it was said that we introduced draft resolution (S/2014/348) in preparation for a military intervention. I do not consider that point even worth arguing. As Talleyrand said, whatever is excessive is insignificant.

On confusion, we have heard and seen our Russian colleague moving from Tripoli to Baghdad, as if the crimes and excesses committed in Tripoli and Baghdad excused the current crimes and excesses in Damascus today.

In error, my Russian colleague asserted that the Syrian National Coalition was responsible for the current impasse in the Geneva talks. In fact, as Mr. Brahimi said himself here in the Council, in reality it is the regime that is refusing his proposed two-pronged approach, namely, parallel negotiations on the subject of terrorism and the matter of the transitional Government.

The representative of the Russian Federation appealed to Mr. Brahimi several times to convene new negotiations in Geneva. And Mr. Brahimi replied that it was impossible because the regime simply did not want to negotiate the transition. He said that he first needed a general agreement on terrorism, before negotiating the transition. If I define my Russian colleague's description of the reasons for the failure of the Geneva negotiations as erroneous, it is because I am being quite polite.

Finally, referring to effrontery, I believe that in New York it is known as "chutzpa": just like accusing Western Powers of providing weapons to the opposition while in fact Russia has never stopped selling weapons to the regime. I am absolutely speechless at the fact that the Russian Federation dares to raise the issue of weapons. But if the Ambassador of the Russian Federation wants, we can impose an arms embargo on Syria. I am ready to vote in favour of that. But would he vote in favour of an arms embargo? Clearly, I think he would not.

Lastly, with regard to the statement that the Caesar report (S/2014/244, annex) is not verifiable — I regret to say that is simply not true. The Caesar report was submitted to independent experts from several countries and all of them said that the photographs could not have been technically altered.

I regret having to respond in this tone to the direct attacks on the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs and France. I wanted this debate to consider only the crimes and atrocities committed by both sides in Syria — as we have stated — and our straightforward determination to send the clear message that in 2014 we cannot not allow what took place in 1942 — notably at Russia's expense — or in 1994 to happen again. There are judges, and one day the criminals will pay. However, some prefer to protect the criminals.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, on behalf of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, I would like to offer our condolences to the Government and people of Nigeria for the terrorist acts that have rocked Kano and two other cities, taking the lives of hundreds of innocent civilians, as well as to convey our sympathies to the relatives of the victims. I wanted to begin my statement with these condolences because, while all of us sitting at this round table feel the enormity of terrorism, none feel it as we Syrians do.

Some of the Member States that sponsored today's draft resolution (S/2014/348) on the Syrian situation remind me of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde in the Scottish writer Robert Stevenson's novel. They are trying to play the role of Dr. Jekyll, the good guy, by promoting noble principles, while in reality they represent Mr. Hyde, the evil guy. That evil role is manifest in their involvement in supporting terrorism in Syria and contributing to the continued bloodshed , while weeping crocodile tears over it. Mr. Hyde's hands are stained with Syrian blood, although he makes false claims of friendship with the Syrian people, to the extent that a few days ago — as mentioned by my colleague the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation — the former leader of the so-called Syrian Coalition, a coalition orchestrated and manufactured by those who call themselves friends of the Syrian people, himself

described those friends by saying that half of them are liars, impostors and hypocrites, and they are responsible for the conditions we are witnessing today in Syria. He added that the West seeks to partition Syria.

That is the statement of a former leader of the Doha coalition, manufactured in well-known capitals. There happens to be a historical coincidence providing much evidence to back up this fact. On this very day in 1945, the Syrian delegation participated in the San Francisco Conference, convened to draft the Charter of the United Nations, at which Article 78 was formulated, thus guaranteeing that Syria would not become a territory under the French Mandate. On 29 May, 1945 the occupying French forces bombed the Syrian Parliament and killed its garrison. Since, as we have heard, war crimes are not subject to the statute of limitations, we demand that the Security Council hold the French Government accountable for the crimes it committed against Syrians and the peoples of the many countries it once occupied and whose resources it looted. We call on the Government of France to apologize publicly and pay compensation to our people. We assure the Council that the Syrian people are not going to forget the Sykes-Picot Agreement or the fact that France subsequently handed over Syria's Iskenderun region to Turkey. Moreover, the people of our region will never ignore the fact that it was France that introduced Israeli nuclear terrorism to the region.

The international legal system is based on fundamental pillars, of which the most important is the fact that States have primary and exclusive responsibility for establishing accountability and justice in their territories. As a result of the regrettable events in my country, the Syrian Government has taken a series of steps designed to hold accountable the people involved in those events and to take appropriate legal action against them. Our national investigation committee continues to work alongside the Syrian judiciary, which since the crisis began has investigated 30,000 cases, issued rulings on those involved and settled the conditions for others, confirming the Syrian Government's desire and ability to have justice and negating the possibility of pretexts aimed at involving any international judicial body that might contradict our national judiciary's powers.

The Syrian crisis has revealed the degree to which double standards rule when it comes to using the mechanisms of the United Nations in order to target certain Member States in particular regions in the name of law and justice. In an example of this approach, a group of Member States submitted today's draft resolution, which is political, discriminatory and interventionist par excellence. It is designed to upset the presidential elections in Syria and reshuffle the cards, fuelling the crisis and achieving propaganda goals. It seeks to involve the Security Council in the attitude of hysterical hostility taken by some Member States to Syria and its people. Its submission represents the ceaseless efforts by some Member States to arrogate to themselves the right to be the custodians of Syria's people and their national choices, in open disregard for the will of the Syrian people and in stark contrast to the Security Council's repeated affirmation of its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic and to the call for a Syrian-led political solution to the Syrian crisis.

Moreover, the grounds presented by the sponsors in justification of the request for referral to the International Criminal Court are nothing but mendacious allegations and fabricated lies based on politicized and biased reports that defy reason. Those reports were provided by committees that ignored all the complaints, documents, evidence and proof provided by the Syrian Government, and they effectively help to serve the agendas of States engaged in a hostile campaign against Syria.

The Syrian Arab Republic believes in international criminal justice, and was among the States that participated actively in the United Nations Diplomatic Conference in Rome that adopted the Statute of the International Criminal Court and were its first signatories. Syria's view is based on how important it is that justice be comprehensive, transparent and in no way politicized, selective or subject to double standards. Against that backdrop, Syria called for the crime of aggression, as the chief of all crimes, to be included in the Court's jurisdiction. That, however, was denied, which is why my country has not ratified the Rome Statute. Today, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic emphasizes that in order to achieve justice we must have the following.

First, we must hold accountable the Governments of Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, France, Israel and other States that are openly inciting violence and terrorism, including by funding, arming, sponsoring, training, recruiting and facilitating the entry of thousands of mercenaries and terrorists from various parts of the world into Syria, and that not only turn a blind eye

to their crimes but also describe such terrorists as a moderate opposition.

I would like to convey to the Council a piece of news mentioned by the chief commander of the Libyan Air Force. He said that the Al-Qaida terrorist organization in Libya and the Muslim Brotherhood in Libya together sent 224 flights from Libya to Turkey, and from there to Syria, to transfer terrorist mercenaries to Syria.

The balance of international justice and the rule of law therefore will not be set right without putting an end to the practices of those States and their repeated violations of international law and Council resolutions related to combating international terrorism. Terrorism is a crime, no matter by whom, wherever or for whatever purposes it is committed. Just as the terrorism practiced by the Boko Haram in Nigeria is unanimously condemned, and must be countered, equal condemnation should be directed towards the terrorism committed by its counterparts who are supported by Israel in the area of separation in the occupied Syrian Golan, backed by Turkey in the north and armed by Western and Arab Governments in full view of the United Nations. Those terrorists have committed unspeakable crimes that shame the human conscience, the most recent of which was cutting the water supply to the city of Aleppo and depriving nearly 3 million Syrians of drinking water and sanitation. We would have liked to see the States that submitted today's draft resolution instead present a draft resolution to combat the terrorism suffered by Syrians.

Secondly, there is a lack of accountability for the documented war crimes, crimes against humanity and acts of aggression and occupation committed by the Israeli authorities in the occupied Arab territories, including the occupied Syrian Golan, for over seven decades. Those crimes were committed with the support of some permanent members in the Council that have thus far enabled the Israeli war criminals to escape punishment and have obstructed all initiatives aimed at holding them accountable.

Thirdly, we are concerned about attempts to undermine justice through the immunity that some of the great Powers have arrogated exclusively for themselves. That immunity has helped them escape any accountability for their human rights violations their crimes committed in other Member States, with the aim of implementing colonial agendas and schemes for domination and oppression. Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo, the bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade, the flooding of Libya with blood, the secret prisons, the use of drones to kill innocent civilians, the practices of mercenary companies, such as Blackwater in Iraq, and others — all these are vivid examples of double standards that have escaped accountability and punishment.

It is ironic that those countries continue to try to impose their national legislation beyond their borders and recently imposed sanctions on the head of the National Relief Committee in Syria, while paying lip service to their alleged support for the Syrian people. Imagine, sanctions have been imposed on the head of the National Relief Committee for humanitarian relief in Syria. Under-Secretary-General Valerie Amos knows the head of the National Relief Committee in Syria, and I will refer those sanctions to her. I hope that she will do something.

That evidence, among other evidence, highlights the fact that justice is tailored to fit the measurements of targeted States. A crime may be prefabricated for some States in order to refer them to the Court, while others are shielded by a curtain that blocks the view of their documented crimes and violations. The draft resolution has been formulated in a way that protects Israeli war criminals from being held accountable for their crimes against the Syrian people. The draft resolution also keeps foreign terrorists and mercenaries flowing into Syria from other countries beyond the Court's jurisdiction. That process not only undermines the credibility of its drafters, but it also exposes their malicious intentions and aggressive motives.

Having mentioned the sanctions imposed on the head of the National Relief Committee, I would also like to remind the Council of another scandal that took place when sanctions were imposed on the Minister of Electricity in Syria. We referred the matter of the head of the National Relief Committee in Syria to Valerie Amos, and we will refer the sanctions on the Minister of Electricity to the Court of Thomas Edison.

I reiterate that my delegation assures all Member States that claim their concern for Syria and its people that the way to help the Syrian people is clear and well known. It is by exerting sincere and serious efforts to fight terrorism, which targets Syria and its people. It is also through supporting the efforts aimed at finding a national solution to the Syrian crisis. The solution should take into consideration the Geneva process, which

is based on the dialogue among Syrians themselves in order to reach consensus on rejecting violence, combating terrorism and establishing a national unity Government, without attempts to impose guardianship and interventionist agendas that do not mean any good for Syria or its people. The Syrians who will go to the polls to elect the President of the Republic will be doing so to protect their country from "creative terrorism", chaos and attempts to undermine the concepts of the State and sovereignty altogether.

In conclusion, it seems that the current French Government has misunderstood the famous phrase in French literature "Hell is the others" in terms of the belief that others are always an embodiment of hell, while what the French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre meant by this phrase is that hell might be oneself and one's view of others and the way one interacts with them. Therefore, the French Government should look first at itself so that it might see hell in its actions and behaviours and not in others.

The President: The representative of France has asked for the floor to make a further statement.

Mr. Araud (France) (*spoke in French*): Please excuse me, Mr. President, I do not want to extend the debate further or get into polemics. I simply want to make a factual correction on the text of draft resolution S/2014/348, on which a vote has been taken. Unlike what our Syrian colleague has just said, the draft resolution does not exempt foreign mercenary terrorists from other countries from the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court. Paragraph 1 states very clearly that armed groups are covered. And, concerning exemptions, paragraph 7 sets covers nationals of a country that is not party to the Rome Statute but who are engaged in operations established or authorized by the Security Council. In other words, if for example, citizens of a Member State of the Security Council were to participate in operations on Syrian territory, the International Criminal Court could prosecute them. The exemption in paragraph 7 does not protect terrorists, no matter what they nationality may be.

The President: The representative of the Russian Federation has asked for the floor to make a further statement.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): I should like to note that my French colleagues has not sounded very convincing today.

The President: The representative of France has again asked for the floor.

Mr. Araud (France) (*spoke in French*): Only those wish to be persuaded are persuaded.

The President: The representative of the Russian Federation wishes to make a further statement.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We shall not concede that point.

The President: The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at noon.

United Nations S/PV.7181

Security Council

Sixty-ninth year

Provisional

7181st meeting
Thursday, 22 May 2014, 12.05 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Oh Joon	(Republic of Korea)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Oyarzábal
	Australia	Ms. King
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Mr. Zhao Yong
	France	Mr. Bertoux
	Jordan	Mr. Omaish
	Lithuania	Mrs. Kazragienė
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Nigeria	Mr. Laro
	Russian Federation	Mr. Pankin
	Rwanda	Mr. Nduhungirehe
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

The situation in Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia (S/2014/330)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

14-40712 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 12.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia (S/2014/330)

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Somalia to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Nicholas Kay, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome Mr. Kay, who is joining today's meeting via video-teleconference from Mogadishu.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedures, I invite Mr. Mahamat Saleh Annadif, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and Head of the African Union Mission in Somalia, to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome Mr. Annadif, who is also joining today's meeting via video-teleconference from Mogadishu.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2014/330, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on Somalia.

The Council has before it the text of a presidential statement on behalf of the Council on the subject of today's meeting. I thank Council members for their valuable contributions to the statement. In accordance with the understanding reached among the members of the Council, I shall take it that the members of the Security Council agree to the statement, which will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2014/9.

I now give the floor to Mr. Nicholas Kay.

Mr. Kay: I thank Security Council members for this opportunity to brief the Council and for their continued and united support for Somalia.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) completes its first year of work on 3 June. A year ago, the Federal Government of Somalia asked the United Nations for "one door to knock on" to help coordinate international assistance as the country emerged from decades of conflict. In response, UNSOM has established an integrated United Nations presence across Somalia. Despite significant security challenges, I am proud that today the United Nations family has a larger presence on the ground in Somalia than at any time in the past 18 years. The United Nations commitment to live and work alongside Somalis is strong. Our plans are for even greater expansion.

Our work depends on having strong partnerships with the Federal Government, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the European Union and Somalia's neighbouring countries and key partners. Our partnership with AMISOM is extremely strong. With both leadership teams firmly based in Mogadishu, we are working increasingly jointly on delivering our mandates. I am pleased that, despite setbacks and disappointments, Somalia has made political, economic and security progress in the past 12 months and in particular in the last quarter.

Politically, the Federal Government has started to address some of the outstanding disputes between the centre and the regions. It has engaged actively with the Interim Juba Administration in the south and decided to support a three-region solution for State-building in south-west Somalia. To the north, relations between Mogadishu and Puntland are strengthening once more. Somalia's leaders are travelling and engaging in the regions, which is an encouraging development that needs to be strengthened. However, I am concerned by the political turmoil in Mogadishu, which I will address when I turn to the challenges ahead.

Economically, the country has continued to show signs of growth, albeit from a distressingly low base. The Federal Government has also taken steps to re-establish donor confidence. A new financial governance committee has been established, composed of Federal Government, World Bank, International Monetary Fund and other representatives.

There have also been security successes in the past three months. We discussed the recent AMISOM/Somali national army offensive in our interactive dialogue with AMISOM in April in New York. My

friend and colleague Ambassador Annadif will brief the Council further on that. I pay tribute to those Somali and African Union colleagues who have lost their lives in the past year bringing peace to Somalia.

There have also been recent improvements in security in Mogadishu. A new Government strategy and closer joint work with AMISOM are beginning to show positive results on the ground, although it is too early and too rash to say that we have seen the end of terrorism. Somali civilians are the ones who make up the vast majority of the victims, but the United Nations is not immune. The deployment of the United Nations guard unit, which was officially inaugurated on 18 May, will help us stay and deliver.

Recognizing political, economic and security progress should not and does not blind us to the significant shortcomings and challenges that remain. Under the leadership of President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, the new Government of Prime Minister Abdiwali Sheikh Ahmed has injected fresh momentum. However, progress on State-building has not been as rapid as needed.

When I last briefed the Council in March (see S/PV.7132), I stated that the Federal Government was close to finalizing a detailed blueprint for building a federal Somalia, revising and implementing the Constitution and preparing for elections in 2016. Unfortunately, that critical plan, with timelines and benchmarks, remains pending. As a first priority, the formation of inclusive interim regional administrations — the first step in the formation of federal member states — needs to be finalized this year. Progress made with the implementation of the Addis Ababa Agreement, which created the Interim Juba Administration, also needs to be accelerated. We welcome the vital role IGAD is playing in that respect.

Police, judiciary and corrections are essential to building sustainable stability and peace, as is the rehabilitation and reintegration of disengaged combatants, including through programmes tailored to children. We must also ensure that those accused and convicted of crimes related to Al-Shabaab have access to programmes to curb extremist ideology and behaviour.

The incidence of gender-based violence in Somalia remains unacceptably high. The United Nations team of experts on sexual violence visited Somalia in December last year. We are striving to implement their important recommendations with the Government, AMISOM and other international partners. UNSOM has also been working closely with the Federal Government and AMISOM to provide training on human rights, international humanitarian law and refugee law, including child protection. The national human rights commission has not yet been established.

I have travelled a lot in Somalia in the past year and I have listened closely to the concerns and hopes of the Somali people. One message I have heard loud and clear is that they want to see a stable and united country. They also want to see progress by the Federal Government and its international partners to move much further and faster. The year 2014 is critical for Somalia. Time is short. I remain a firm optimist, but it is clear that the Government and its international partners must make faster progress.

I fear that Somalia is approaching a critical phase in a number of areas. Politically, there needs to be urgent progress in establishing the mechanisms to revise and implement the Constitution, oversee the establishment of federal states, and prepare for elections. I am concerned that the current political crisis in Mogadishu, which includes a call by over a hundred members of Parliament for the President to resign, could herald a return to the cycle of deadlock and infighting between Somalia's political institutions that has paralysed Governments since 2000. Somalia needs continuity and stability in its political leadership.

The expectations of the Somali people are high and patience is a virtue in short supply. I have worked and will continue to work with international partners and with the President, Prime Minister and Speaker. They are united in their search for solutions. Somalia cannot afford further delays in its State-building process. Its institutions should work together within the distinct roles and responsibilities set out for them in the Constitution to deliver what the people need and expect.

There must also be urgent progress on security and stabilization in the newly recovered areas. Locally acceptable administrations need to be established and local people must see peace dividends soon. Access to those areas, currently obstructed by ongoing Al-Shabaab activity, also needs to be secured urgently. The United Nations Peacebuilding Fund has allocated up to $10 million to support the Government's efforts to deliver tangible peace dividends to communities in those areas and other parts of south-central Somalia.

The lack of military helicopters for AMISOM is a critical obstacle. And without further contributions to the trust fund for the Somali National Army, vital logistical support will be impossible. Building a sustainable, professional and truly national Somali army is a strategic priority. To date, despite the considerable efforts of international partners, progress is still fragmentary and insufficient. Without action on those issues, there is a danger that military success will not be consolidated and that insecurity will return.

Without more economic progress and development, the credibility of the international community and the Federal Government is also in danger. The Somali people must see greater benefits from the Somali Compact. The United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund is now operational, and a national stream has been established to allow for a gradual increase in direct support to the Treasury. More money needs to go into and come out from this and the other international funding mechanisms established to support Somalia's development.

The humanitarian situation risks slipping into the danger zone as well. My deputy and humanitarian coordinator has recently flagged the troubling similarities between the situation today and that before the 2011 famine. There is a real danger of a worsening of the existing crisis as a result of ongoing conflict, poor rains and lack of sustained access to towns due to Al-Shabaab tactics of blocking main supply routes.

The funding crisis affecting existing humanitarian operations is further exacerbating the situation. So far this year, the consolidated appeal has received only 19 per cent of the $933 million requested — leaving a gap of $756 million — to meet the needs of almost 3 million people. The funding situation is so bad that aid agencies are looking at closing down life-saving programmes. For example, UNICEF primary health-care services for 3 million people are on the verge of being cut. Some $60 million are needed immediately to maintain current life-saving operations in just the next two to three months. While we do not know which way the food security situation will go, this is no time for business as usual in Somalia. If Somalia's humanitarian situation is allowed to slip back into emergency, it will jeopardise the political, economic and development gains that have been achieved.

The period between now and my next briefing to the Council will be a testing time for Somalia. I remain confident that its leaders and institutions will rise to the challenge and that international partners will continue and enhance their support in equal measure. But we should not ignore the dangers.

I am proud of the collective efforts being made by Somalia's friends in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the African Union, the European Union, the League of Arab States and the United Nations. They all do so at some personal risk. I pay tribute to those who have lost their lives in this endeavour, as we saw again when two United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime colleagues were tragically killed in April. Building peace comes at a price, but as we all recognize that failure is a cost we cannot afford. I thank the Council for its unwavering support and for its decision to visit Somalia later this year.

The President: I thank Mr. Kay for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Annadif.

Mr. Annadif (*spoke in French*): One month ago, on 23 and 24 April, my friend Mr. Kay and I joined the Council in New York on the occasion of the interactive dialogue on Somalia. Today, the Council is meeting to discuss the situation involving our main partner, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM). Once again the Council has invited us to participate in the discussion. Allow me to convey, on behalf of the African Union and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), sincere thanks for that privilege and especially for the Council's ongoing support through the adoption of numerous resolutions, in particular resolution 2124 (2013) of 12 November 2013.

Concerning UNSOM and all the United Nations entities in Somalia in general, it is a pleasure to be able to tell the Council that our collaboration and that of all the partners with the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) has been exemplary, as the Special Representative just said, despite the fact that the challenges of the situation in Somalia are numerous and sometimes complex.

Regarding AMISOM, as I informed the Council on 23 April in New York, the first phase of military operations was completed on 30 March. The various logistical problems that existed at the start were dealt with thanks to our partnership with the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM. As the Ambassador just mentioned, simultaneously with those operations

work was also being done in Mogadishu by the Joint Operations Centre between AMISOM and the Somalian Government, and we can say that security in Mogadishu has improved significantly, despite the persistence of some suicide attacks, targeted assassinations and the planting of improvised explosive devices.

In regard to military operations, I should inform the Council that on 29 and 30 May a meeting to assess the first phase will be held in Addis Ababa, aimed at extracting useful lessons and highlighting challenges to be tackled. Meanwhile, AMISOM will continue to keep up the pressure militarily while raising the people's awareness and organizing them so that they can defend themselves. Secondly, it will continue to deploy police in the liberated cities in order to ensure better security. Thirdly, it will continue to secure the major supply routes to the liberated cities. Fourthly, as Mr. Kay just said, AMISOM will continue training the Somali military to enable them to secure rural areas. Fifthly, the Mission will continue to implement quick-impact projects,. Lastly, as Mr. Kay also said, the issue of helicopters remains a crucial expectation for which we appeal to all partners, particularly the African Union, to find a solution.

Concerning the Somalian Federal Government, I firmly agree with the analysis given by the Ambassador just now, but at AMISOM we continue to encourage and assist the Government in appointing local officials to administer the liberated cities in consultation with the communities concerned. Secondly, AMISOM welcomes the various visits the Government has organized to the liberated areas, including that of the Prime Minister and many of his ministers. But one challenge for the Somalian Government that still remains is the failure to pay the Somali military forces' salaries.

The dialogue between the Federal Government and the various States on the periphery is indeed making progress. The Addis Ababa agreement has made progress in Juba, and according to our information, the process is going well in Baidoa. As for me, yesterday I was in Garoowe, in Puntland, and AMISOM is also pleased with the good relations that are developing between Mogadishu and Garoowe.

Finally, I wish to inform the Council that the humanitarian situation is still worrying. Financing for the special fund for supporting the Somali national forces remains a concern. To that I should add that the various partners are requested to stick to the plan for providing the resources the Somali Government needs to enable it to carry out its principal task.

In conclusion, I can say that the situation in Somalia is developing well. There are challenges, but there is hope, too.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7182

Security Council

Sixty-ninth year

Provisional

7182nd meeting

Tuesday, 27 May 2014, 2.30 p.m.

New York

President:	Ms. Paik Ji-ah	(Republic of Korea)
Members:	Argentina	Mrs. Perceval
	Australia	Ms. King
	Chad	Mrs. Alingue
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Lamek
	Jordan	Mr. Omaish
	Lithuania	Mr. Baublys
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Nigeria	Mr. Laro
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Rwanda	Mr. Nduhungirehe
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Davison
	United States of America	Ms. Power

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

14-40912 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 2.35 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary General on the Sudan and South Sudan

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of South Sudan to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2014/367, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Australia, Chad, France, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Australia, Chad, Chile, China, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2155 (2014).

I now give the floor to the representative of South Sudan.

Mr. Deng (South Sudan): It gives me great pleasure to address the Security Council once again during the presidency of the Republic of Korea. I would like to assure you, Madam, and the members of the Security Council of our sincere appreciation for the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). My statement today will be a very brief message of gratitude.

There is no question that, despite our shared interest in the continuation of UNMISS, we are faced with challenges that call for constructive engagement to promote mutual understanding cooperation. For many of us who know the background to the UNMISS presence in our country as an agent of good will and support, it was indeed a source of discomfort to witness anti-United Nations demonstrations. As I have said on previous occasions, the demonstrations were due in part to misunderstandings and in part to genuine concerns about specific issues that I have discussed in depth and with candour with both sides.

The demonstrations were also a reaction to the gap between the ambitious objectives of the Mission as originally articulated and the shortcomings in delivery on the ground, due to the limitations of the resources available to UNMISS. This disappointment has never detracted from the Government's appreciation of the role played by UNMISS and its leadership in the country or from our commitment to cooperation, as President Salva Kiir assured Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon during his most recent visit to Juba.

The Security Council, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Government of South Sudan have worked closely together to resolve our differences and misunderstandings in the new configuration of UNMISS. Although our Government has had some reservations about some of the elements of the renewed mandate, we hope that, with our shared concerns and better communications, our cooperation will be enhanced.

I have repeatedly stated that the Government of South Sudan is well aware of the limitations in its capacity to meet fully its commitments to and aspirations for the protection of its citizens, and that the legacy of the long war, stretching over half a century, has left deep wounds that will take long to heal. That is why we believe that despite the understandable need for the United Nations to reconsider its priorities in light of the crisis that South Sudan is undergoing, building State capacity should remain high on the list of priorities.

The objective of capacity-building is to help create a State that is capable, responsible and responsive — not a State that is oppressive. Failure to help build a functioning State could lead to serious problems that the United Nations and the international community might be later called upon to help address. Capacity-building should therefore be seen as a form of preventive strategy. We therefore hope that it will be given serious consideration and included in the next extension of the UNMISS mandate.

The Government of South Sudan appreciates the fact that greater attention is being focused on the protection of civilians, given the gravity of the crisis that the country is going through. It is our hope, however, that there will be no more tragic crises of the kind the world has so painfully witnessed as the parties strive to restore peace and reconciliation, with accountability, through the negotiations led by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. It is also our hope that, with the refocusing of the mandate and the lessons learned from prior experience, UNMISS peacekeepers — who have at times put their own lives at risk to protect civilians — will be better prepared and equipped to respond more effectively in protecting civilians, themselves and their installations.

As we move forward into the future, we should modestly admit that mistakes have been made by both sides and that we should work in close cooperation to address those past mistakes and forge an even closer partnership in pursuing our shared objectives. South Sudan will forever be grateful for the support we received in achieving our independence and in our efforts to build a sustainable, post-conflict State. We should not allow the challenges we are currently facing to undermine this solid foundation.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 2.45 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7183

Security Council

Sixty-ninth year

Provisional

7183rd meeting
Tuesday, 27 May 2014, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Oh Joon	(Republic of Korea)
Members:	Argentina	Mrs. Perceval
	Australia	Ms. King
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Lamek
	Jordan	Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein
	Lithuania	Ms. Murmokaitė
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Nigeria	Mr. Laro
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Rwanda	Mr. Nduhungirehe
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Tatham
	United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

Agenda

Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (S/2014/305)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

14-40918 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (S/2014/305)

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Serbia to participate in this meeting.

I request the Protocol Officer to escort His Excellency Mr. Tomislav Nikolić, President of the Republic of Serbia, to a seat at the Council table.

Mr. Tomislav Nikolić, President of the Republic of Serbia, was escorted to his seat at the Council table.

The President: On behalf of the Council, I welcome His Excellency President Nikolić.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Farid Zarif, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Ms. Atifete Jahjaga to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2014/305, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo.

I now give the floor to Mr. Farid Zarif.

Mr. Zarif: At the outset, I would like to express my solidarity with the people and authorities of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, who are facing an unprecedented natural disaster caused by widespread flooding. I also extend my heartfelt condolences to those who have lost their beloved family members, friends and colleagues as a result of that tragedy. I hope that the current rescue operations and assistance, including the efforts undertaken by the United Nations, will help alleviate their plight.

Let me now turn to recent developments in Kosovo and relations between Belgrade and Pristina. I should like to note the continuing commitment demonstrated by both sides to the European Union-led political dialogue. During the reporting period, the pace of implementation of last year's historic agreements was somewhat affected by the holding of early parliamentary elections in Serbia and the preparations for the forthcoming early legislative elections in Kosovo. I congratulate Serbia on the successful conduct of the elections, on 16 March, and the formation of a new Government, on 27 April, led by Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić.

The Assembly of Kosovo, in an extraordinary session held on 7 May, decided to dissolve itself with a vote of more than two-thirds of its members, including a majority of the representatives from the Kosovo Serb and other non-majority communities. The new elections for the Kosovo Assembly are scheduled to be held on 8 June, less than two weeks from now. The election campaign will start tomorrow, 28 May. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe will provide technical assistance in the preparation and conduct of the elections. The European Union will deploy an election observation mission. I take this opportunity to call on all Kosovo residents, particularly members of the Kosovo Serb community, to take part in the forthcoming elections and exercise their democratic franchise.

Despite a slower pace of implementation of the First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations of 19 April 2013, the parties have narrowed their remaining differences, including on the structure and staffing of the judiciary in northern Kosovo. An additional indicator of progress is the operational capability of the Kosovo Police in northern Kosovo. The total number of former Serbian Interior Ministry personnel integrated into the Kosovo Police under the terms of the 19 April Agreement has now reached 284. Other elements are continuing to be discussed between technical representatives and experts from each side. It is hoped that, once the forthcoming electoral process in Kosovo is complete and the new Government is in place, the dialogue will resume without delay and a crucial pending matter — the establishment of the association/community of Serb municipalities — will be tackled expeditiously, along with other issues of mutual interest and concern.

The Kosovo institutions have taken some important decisions since my last briefing. On 22 April, the Assembly of Kosovo ratified the exchange of letters between the Kosovo authorities and the European Union on the extension of the mandate of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) until 15 June 2016 and on the creation of a special court in relation to the allegations contained in the 2010 Council of Europe report on inhumane treatment and illicit trafficking of organs. The establishment of such a court should help strengthen the rule of law in Kosovo and ensure accountability.

On 6 March, the Kosovo authorities approved recommendations resulting from the strategic security sector review, including on the transformation of the Kosovo Security Force into the Kosovo armed forces. However, the Assembly of Kosovo has not taken a conclusive decision in this regard. Discussions on the key issues of electoral reform and extension of the provision of reserved seats for ethnic minority communities in the Kosovo Assembly have been deferred to the next Assembly.

Over recent months, a great deal of efforts was made to overcome challenges related to the finalization of municipal assembly statutes of the four Serbian-majority municipalities of northern Kosovo. On 15 May, the municipal assemblies in northern Kosovo approved amendments to their statutes, bringing them into compliance with relevant Kosovo legislation, as required by the Ministry of Local Government Administration. This is an important step forward in the implementation of the 19 April 2013 Agreement and the process of establishing the future association/community of Serb-majority municipalities.

There were a series of violent incidents in northern Kosovo, including an ambush on Kosovo police in Zubin Potok on 31 March, which resulted in injuries to three police officers, and an assault against EULEX in the same municipality on 25 April, in which EULEX vehicles were hit by bullets but fortunately no one was injured. The fatal attack on EULEX on 19 September of last year remains under investigation. We have condemned such criminal attacks and have urged all sides to strengthen their efforts to uphold law and order and bring the perpetrators to justice.

In Pristina, on 20 May, three defendants charged with war crimes in the case known as the Drenica group escaped custody in a medical clinic where they were receiving treatment. The individuals were among the group of former members of the Kosovo Liberation Army, whose trial began on 23 May in the Basic Court of Mitrovica. Subsequently, a court order was issued for their detention, and the individuals were apprehended and sent to a high security prison.

We have persistently encouraged the various communities in Kosovo to continue working towards greater reconciliation and integration. Progress has been noted on some important issues, such as missing persons and the recognition of the survivors of sexual violence during the conflict. We commend Ms. Atifete Jahjaga for her leadership at the helm of Kosovo's efforts to raise public awareness of such issues. In this regard, we welcome the official launch, on 7 March, of the national council for the survivors of sexual violence related to the war, which we trust will focus on the plight of all affected persons, regardless of their ethnicity, religion or language.

With respect to missing persons, we welcome the continued efforts of both the Pristina and Belgrade delegations alike in the Working Group on Missing Persons. Exhumation work at the mass grave site in Raška, in south-central Serbia, has resumed under the auspices of the Serbian Government, with the involvement of international observers and Kosovo representatives. We encourage all efforts to ensure the transparency and professionalism of this work and particularly welcome the inclusion of visits by the family associations of missing persons to the site.

A common appreciation of the benefits of cultural heritage for all communities in Kosovo will also be an important step forward towards coexistence and reconciliation among the communities. Despite the efforts of the Kosovo authorities, regrettably, such awareness has yet to reach adequate levels. Similarly, efforts to promote inter-community reconciliation should be significantly strengthened. This will also contribute to further reducing ethnic-related incidents and to accelerating the return of internally displaced persons.

In the run-up to the elections, the issue of the unfinished Serbian Orthodox Church structure on the campus of the University of Pristina became a political issue. Some Kosovo Albanian officials have referred to this church as a "Milosevic-era monument", asserting that it should be demolished for having allegedly erected without the requisite building permits. An unfortunate exchange of statements involving political and religious leaders followed. We strongly encourage

the leaders in Kosovo communities, as well as the leaders in Belgrade and Pristina, to take a constructive, prudent and forward-looking approach in addressing such a sensitive public issue.

Despite strong condemnation against participation of Kosovo residents in foreign conflicts, including by the Islamic Community of Kosovo, the matter remains a concern. On 9 April, international attention was drawn to reports of suicide bombing by a 22-year-old Kosovo Albanian in Fallujah, Iraq. Several other young Kosovo Albanians have been reported killed while fighting in Syria and Iraq in recent months. We encourage the Kosovo authorities to build on the measures they have already taken in cooperation with international stakeholders in order to ensure that such events cease once and for all.

On 2 May, Kosovo concluded negotiations with the European Commission on its Stabilization and Association Agreement.The negotiations began last October, and the Agreement should help Kosovo advance its European integration agenda further. On 6 May, the European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, Mr. Štefan Füle, visited Pristina, where he discussed with Kosovo leaders key issues on the European Union-Kosovo agenda, including the normalization process with Belgrade, the rule of law and other areas that have been identified for reform. A day before his visit to Kosovo, Commissioner Füle was in Belgrade, just after a visit by the European Union High Representative, Ms. Catherine Ashton, to meet with Serbia's President Tomislav Nikolić and Prime Minister Vučić. Given that dynamic, and the current dialogue process between Belgrade and Pristina, it is apparent that the European perspective will continue to be a key determinant and incentive for Kosovo's political, institutional and socioeconomic progress.

It is essential that Belgrade and Pristina stay on track to achieve full implementation of the agreement of 19 April 2013. Equally important are coordinated efforts to make the best use of European and other multilateral and bilateral assistance to local programmes and projects in Kosovo, so that the people of Kosovo can fully benefit and build a better life. In that regard, the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK) will continue to engage fully in Kosovo, in cooperation and coordination with other international, regional and local partners, within its status-neutral framework, with the aim of making the best use of its resources and relations with all communities.

I would like to conclude by thanking you, Mr. President, and all the members of the Council for their valuable engagement with both parties and their continuing support for the work of UNMIK.

The President: I thank Mr. Zarif for his briefing.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Tomislav Nikolić, President of the Republic of Serbia.

President Nikolić (*spoke in Serbian; English interpretation provided by the delegation*): I would first like to greet you, Mr. President, and thank you for convening this meeting of the Security Council on the work of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) from 21 January through 15 April, in accordance with resolution 1244 (1999). Serbia has full confidence in the United Nations and greatly appreciates the contribution it has made to resolving numerous open issues in Kosovo and Metohija. The Council's quarterly meetings on UNMIK, such as this one, convened under resolution 1244 (1999) — the sole valid legal framework for the international presence in this part of the territory of the Republic of Serbia — also contribute to this.

Since I am taking the floor in the Security Council for the first time, I would like to present an overview, in some detail, of the events underlying the problems under consideration today so as to be able to decide which of them we can work out together.

I am very pleased to be addressing the Council as the Head of a State which, through its concrete actions and reasonable and patient policies and by its continuing to engage in thoughtful dialogue with the provisional institutions in Pristina during this period, has affirmed the sincere and willing compromise solutions aimed at ensuring the peaceful coexistence of the inhabitants of Kosovo and Metohija. The work of the State authorities has been extremely difficult due to the unfavourable circumstances in which the negotiations have been conducted — that is, intensive promotion of Kosovo's independence, which presents a unilateral act of secession to Belgrade. The Council will agree that for a small country like Serbia there can be no greater challenge than the violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The dialogue with Pristina took place in an atmosphere inherited from the sponsorship of Kosovo's

independence, which is unfortunately advocated by some influential States. However, the dialogue with representatives of the provisional institutions of self-government in Pristina, held under the auspices of the European Union (EU), has yielded remarkable results. I would like to take this opportunity to thank, in particular, Baroness Catherine Ashton, who on behalf of the European Union mediated the dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina with wisdom and patience. April marked the anniversary of the First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations, a true watershed and a new chapter in relations between Belgrade and Pristina, progress that was welcomed by the entire world. Serbia has unequivocally demonstrated that it is a constructive partner and that it is ready to compromise in order to stabilize the situation and take the whole region forward.

UNMIK's continuing 15-year, status-neutral presence under resolution 1244 (1999), which is as binding today as it has ever been, is the last bulwark against the policy of promoting the unilaterally declared independence for Kosovo. As we have warned on a number of occasions, the precedent set by the declaration of Kosovo's independence has resulted in porous State borders and potential new focal points for crisis that have also affected the continent of Europe more generally. All this testifies to the importance of abiding by the fundamental principles on which the United Nations was founded and to which many United Nations Member States, including Serbia, are committed to respecting and defending.

International law is based on sources derived from international conventions, customary law and generally accepted rules. Any decision, just or unjust, must follow particular rules or regulations. The very existence of international law is a guarantee of legal certainty that precludes voluntarism and arbitrariness as well as ensuring legality. Without it, civilization today would be no different from that of medieval times, and we would have learned nothing from the past.

International relations, however, also depend on precedents imposed by some countries, possibly even by force. Such a precedent was created by Kosovo and Metohija's unilateral secession from Serbia. Paradoxically, in this case, a precedent was established that, it was claimed, was in fact not a precedent. And then came Crimea, where the people and authorities of that peninsula, in declaring their independence, referred to the famous precedent of Kosovo, which , they said, Western countries themselves helped to create. Western officials immediately responded that the Kosovo precedent was sui generis, thus de facto and de jure denying the essence of a precedent, which is a decision creating a new rule that can apply to similar or analogous cases in the future. To sum up, we will have to coin a new way to define a precedent that is not a precedent. In my opinion, such a phenomenon is contrary to logic. It negates scientific achievements, respect for international law and the fact that all countries of the world, big or small, are equal.

Serbia's territorial integrity is defined in article 8 of its Constitution, which states that the territory of the Republic of Serbia is integral and indivisible and its borders inviolable, and that the Province of Kosovo and Metohija, as an autonomous entity, is an integral part of the territory of the sovereign State of Serbia. That would still be the case had it not been for the creation of the Kosovo precedent, which launched an era of consistency in the inconsistent application of international law.

A great many countries have recognized Kosovo's unilaterally declared independence, which split off part of a sovereign territory that had no right to secede. And yet other nations' identical decisions, in identical situations, have been declared null and void. Is this justice and equity, or an exhibition of might-is-right? We who represent small nations seek justice. Serbia has always respected, without exception, the territorial integrity of United Nations Member States. Might, where there is no right, is reprehensible. It should thus go hand in hand with justice — in other words, what is mighty should be just, and what is just will be mighty. Serbia expects that justice and equity should be equally applied in its case, no more and no less than for other countries.

Serbia does not recognize the unilaterally declared independence of Kosovo and Metohija, but it is engaged in negotiations with it and will continue to do so, with a view to ensuring peace and prosperity for all the inhabitants of Kosovo and Metohija. That is the unwavering position of the current Government and will be the position of any future Governments.

Let me clarify — Serbia will not be forced to recognize the unilaterally declared independence of Kosovo and Metohija by attrition. No one will win an election in Serbia if he or she makes such a commitment or accepts Kosovo and Metohija's independence as a fait

accompli. Such an attitude is not evidence of rigidity; rather, it is the result of an aspiration to survive. No one should expect us to willingly and passively submit to our own destruction. Serbia is resolutely against the promotion of Kosovo's independence. If that were not the case, the survival of the Kosovo Serbs would be at the mercy of the so-called altered situation on the ground. No one would be spared assimilation or final exodus, which would result in all traces of their existence being wiped out.

Serbia's wealth and strength lie in its unity in diversity and in the respect and understanding it has for others. With more than 27 nations, cultures and languages, it is both unique and diverse, and under Serbia's Constitution minorities have even more rights than do citizens of Serbian nationality. That wealth is the result of Serbia's geography. Because we are at the crossroads between East and West, we have always been the setting for confrontation between interests from the outside. Whether orchestrated or organic, incidents from those confrontations have become triggers for war, suffering and loss of life.

In the recent past, circumstances have become extremely complicated, with ethnic cleansing and pogroms against Serbians and the destruction of their holy places and of cultural heritage sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. At the same time, we have been identified as the sole party responsible. Does the greatest responsibility lie in defending people, even members of the Albanian community who were not ready to commit crimes and hate others, and in trying to protect territories? Can foreign policy missteps and misunderstanding of international relations and geostrategic interests be considered responsibility?

Serbian forces withdrew from the country's own territory of Kosovo and Metohija pursuant to resolution 1244 (1999) after 78 days of a NATO bombing campaign that took place without the Security Council's authorization. During the air strikes, 2,300 missiles were dropped, with the use of prohibited depleted uranium ordnance, cluster bombs and electromagnetic fibre weapons against thermal power plants and other power transmission systems. The bombing of oil refineries provoked black and acid rain, while oil and oil derivatives and toxic chemicals contaminated the water supply systems in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and other Balkan countries. More than 5 million people lived without electricity and water.

Some 200 industrial plants, eight power stations and infrastructure facilities, including 82 bridges, seven railway stations, six airports and a multitude of roads, were destroyed or seriously damaged. More than 40,000 buildings, 422 educational institutions — schools, universities and dormitories — 48 medical centres, including hospitals and clinics, the building housing the national television broadcasting company and 74 television relays were demolished. Also destroyed or demolished were around 90 cultural, historical and architectural places of interest, including 16 Christian Orthodox and Roman Catholic monasteries.

During the bombing, nearly 2,000 civilians were killed and 7,000 wounded; 30 per cent of these were children. More than 750,000 inhabitants of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia left their homes in search of a normal life beyond the borders of their own country. One in every four inhabitants was deprived of his or her livelihood. The final figures of the damage done are still not known; according to various estimates, the damage amounts to dozens of billions of United States dollars.

I am not complaining today about the pain and suffering inflicted upon us. I do not deny individual responsibility for the crimes committed against the Albanian population and I insist that those responsible be held accountable. But I disagree that in a conflict between a State and separatists, there could be only one responsible party, namely, the sovereign State. I am not complaining and I am not asking for the payment of war reparations in the classic sense, but as long as I am President of Serbia I will remind the Council of its obligation to compensate us for the enormous, irreparable damage caused to our civilian facilities and to the economy as a whole. The international community can redress that historical wrong only if it helps Serbia alleviate the consequences of bombing by repairing and rebuilding the damaged infrastructure, economy and public and cultural institutions. Every day an ever greater number of officials of the countries that took part in the bombing of Serbia also demand justice for Serbia. The damage is too high to be remedied by Serbia alone.

By engaging in negotiations with Pristina at the highest level, by acting responsibly and patiently, and by signing the Brussels Agreement, we have made it possible for the first time since the bombings for Serbs, Albanians and other nations in Kosovo and Metohija to live together. It is more now important than ever that

both parties be truly committed to dialogue; otherwise, the idea of a tranquil life together will become a dead letter.

I am sure that the European Union will provide valuable assistance to us in building confidence, in particular in the further course of Brussels negotiations and in the framework of European integration. We also see the start of the accession talks with the EU as an impetus to further work on improving living conditions for Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija, as we are convinced at present that a constructive approach to fostering European values will be fully embraced by Serbian society. The fact that accession negotiations were opened on 21 January 2014 and that a screening for Chapter 35 negotiations was held shows that Serbia has fulfilled its obligations resulting from the Brussels Agreement in a timely manner and that it has approached the dialogue itself in a constructive spirit.

However, the report of the Secretary-General (S/2014/305) states that Kosovo is conducting negotiations on the Stabilization and Association Agreement with the EU. Serbia has no mechanisms at its disposal to prevent that, but it may ask certain questions. Is the European Union a union of States or a union of States with a para-State? Will it once again set a precedent without a precedent? According to that precedent, provinces of all Member States will also be eligible to become Member States. Serbia considers that, in accordance with resolution 1244 (1999), only UNMIK may, on behalf of the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government, conduct negotiations on stabilization and association.

The European Union must see to it that international law is respected and observe the rules on the basis of which it came into existence; otherwise, its very foundations will be at risk. If a decision is made to the effect that Kosovo and Metohija may negotiate with the European Union independently, it would lead the European family to lawlessness and chaos, with each party acting in its own individual interest.

In order to be able to ensure the best possible results in the implementation of the Brussels Agreement we must establish much clearer rules and build much greater confidence. In parallel with negotiations, the Albanian side has worked to strengthen their independent State through so-called low-intensity terror against the Serb population, which is totally unacceptable to Serbia. Low intensity ethnic crimes may suffice to impose serious constraints on the freedom of movement of Serbs and other non-Albanians whose life is defined by a complex number of minor restrictions — prohibitions on travel alone or by night, choice of time and place to do errands, restrictive use of Serbian language in public, safe attendance of schools, and so on. Public condemnation of ethnically motivated incidents could definitely contribute to inter-ethnic dialogue and tolerance, including the raising of awareness that the future lies with multi-ethnicity and acceptance of returnees from other ethnic groups.

The introduction of procedures and administrative obstacles has prevented the return of Serbs. Since 1999, less than 5 per cent of the expelled Serbs have returned to Kosovo and Metohija. The demographic picture is far from the much vaunted multi-ethnicity of our southern province, which is best illustrated by the fact that there have been only 50 voluntary returns to the province. That is far below any acceptable minimum. The international community has not discharged one of the main tasks entrusted to it under resolution 1244 (1999) — the free and unimpeded sustainable return of all refugees and displaced persons to their homes.

Serbs and other minority communities in the region of Kosovo and Metohija still face problems. Their freedom of movement continues to be restricted and impeded. Their security and the free use of their own language has not been respected, nor have their access to institutions and the right to participate in elections and their right to vote. There are no appropriate mechanisms for the restitution of dispossessed property or mechanisms for preventing property from being repossessed following eviction of occupants. Entry into possession is also prevented. Returnees are not given free choice of place of return nor are there conditions for the sustainable return of internally displaced persons. Even if they somehow decide to return, local communities go out of their way to make them feel unaccepted and unacceptable.

Eighteen incidents and attacks on temples and property of the Serbian Orthodox Church have been recorded, including the latest wave of threats against Orthodox places of worship ranging from the graffiti scribbled on the monastery of Visoki Dečani to the announcement that the Church of Christ the Saviour in Pristina will be razed. At the same time, we welcome UNMIK's resolute response to declare null and void the decision of the municipal authorities of Pristina to deny the Serbian Orthodox Church the right to use land on

which the Church of Christ the Saviour had been built in the centre of the city.

Lastly, constant attempts at renaming and obliterating the existence of Serbian cultural and religious heritage, coupled with unlawful sales of the property owned by the Republic of Serbia, continue unabated.

The current discriminatory treatment of minority communities makes it impossible for their members to lead normal lives, especially with respect to the enjoyment of all rights legally provided for in instruments in force in Kosovo and Metohija. The non-discrimination law promulgated by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General himself provides special protection to minority communities, bans all forms of discrimination and protects individuals not only against discriminatory acts of public authorities, but also against discriminatory acts of legal and natural persons. Regrettably, UNMIK and the Pristina institutions have not followed up on the high quality of that legal text with concrete and appropriate measures to implement it, which has allowed gross violations of the law and everyday instances of dramatic discrimination.

We highly appreciate the constructive approach taken by the United Nations and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Farid Zarif, as well as by the organizations working under the United Nations umbrella, including the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX). They have created conditions for all sides to work together on improving the living conditions and respect for the human rights of all inhabitants of Kosovo and Metohija, regardless of their ethnicity. I believe that the Council will agree that disagreements with regard to the question of the status of Kosovo and Metohija should not stand in the way of efforts aimed at working together towards finding practical solutions to issues that Pristina has been sweeping under the carpet for many years. Therefore, I believe that a decision to downsize UNMIK and reduce the number of international personnel would have an outright negative effect on the Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija and affect the execution of the functions entrusted to the Mission.

Consequently, I call on the Council, under the roof of the United Nations, to resist attempts to marginalize the United Nations Mission in Kosovo and Metohija and to attach relative importance to its role within the overall international and security presence in the province. I ask the Council to make itself both more visible and more effective in the discharge of its mission, as it works together with other international players, such as EULEX, the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and UNMIK, which are also active under United Nations auspices. In the light of the intended modification of the mandates of those missions under the pretext of a changed actual situation on the ground, allegedly as a result of the reaching of the Brussels Agreement, I draw attention to the argument that this cannot alter the binding nature of resolution 1244 (1999).

In that context, I am opposed to the resort to such excuses as being overburdened and focused on other, more urgent matters instead of convening Security Council meetings devoted to considering the situation in Kosovo and Metohija more frequently. Great expectations and the increasing requests of Belgrade and Pristina concerning the implementation of the Brussels Agreement require the Council's meetings be held with undiminished momentum so as to ensure that its members are regularly provided with insight into the situation on the ground. The coming period will be crucial for the implementation of the arrangements made and for the further normalization of relations between Belgrade and Pristina. That process must take place in full sight of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo and Metohija and the Security Council.

We support the initiative to set up a special court and an office of the prosecutor based outside the territory of Kosovo and Metohija to try all cases resulting from the investigations carried out by the EULEX Special Investigative Task Force. Serbia will lend its full support to the efforts to bring all those responsible to justice, as it has done in the past.

However, stability has not been promoted by the arrest of Oliver Ivanović, a mayoral candidate for North Mitrovica. We expect the problem of secret indictments, which we have warned about for years, to be resolved. With witness accounts as the only evidence, witnesses must testify in an orchestrated manner 15 years after the crimes were allegedly committed. Mr. Ivanović, who is being detained in a prison in Mitrovica, was arrested on the basis of such testimony. In addition, the appellate court failed to provide an explanation as to why the legal deadline to act upon his arrest appeal was allowed to lapse. The Republic of Serbia once again most vigorously protests the arrest of Oliver Ivanović and demands his release from prison along with an explanation as to why he was arrested in the run-up to

the mayoral elections in northern Mitrovica, where he stood as one of the candidates.

Although the overall situation, as indicated in the report for the period from 21 January to 15 April, has been described as relatively stable, I believe that this limited period of time does not reflect the general situation in Kosovo and Metohija. The circumstances are characterized by the substantial gap between the professed benchmarks and respect for human rights and the actual situation. In considering the generally made assessments presented as fact for a limited period of time, it seems to me that we forget that it only takes a spark like the one in the pogrom of March 2004 to escalate dormant tensions.

Despite the continued international presence, impunity, relative importance and depersonalization of the crimes committed from 1999 onwards send a bad message, that of fear to the Serbs and other peoples in Kosovo and Metohija. This means that crimes are not punished, while further attacks are encouraged because they remain outside the reach of justice. We note that the Pristina institutions and the international community have done next to nothing to protect Kosovo Serbs and other non-Albanians, particularly the most vulnerable people like internally displaced persons.

Serbia has encouraged its compatriots in Kosovo to go to the polls in the local elections. It encouraged them to do so in order to strengthen their legitimacy, under the roof of the community of Serbian municipalities, the establishment of which is envisaged in the Brussels Agreement, therefore guaranteeing their survival and the realization of their rights. Despite having lived in fear and uncertainty for years, they are still ready for reconciliation and have faith that their coexistence with Albanians is possible after all.

However, in preparing themselves for the elections, the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government in Pristina, preparing themselves for the elections, have done all they could to challenge the voting right of Serbs. Calling the internally displaced persons to mark their vote on the forms with the symbol of an independent State, which has gained its independence by driving them out of their ancestral homes — a quarter of a million of them — is an example of the utter hypocrisy and provocation.

By manipulating the voting registries, Pristina attempted to put in place a new, forcibly changed ethnic structure and therefore directly influence the result of the vote. For all the pledges made and emphasizing the commitment to multi-ethnicity as democratic values and human rights, Pristina in practice consistently applied measures discouraging and dissuading Kosovo Serbs to participate in the public life of Kosovo.

Unilateral actions by Pristina announcing the revision of electoral rules at the expense of Serbs and displaced persons are unacceptable and undermine the legitimacy of the forthcoming general election scheduled for 8 June. This time, Belgrade will, after careful consideration, decide whether to call on Kosovo Serbs to go to the polls or not. We demand that Pristina fulfil the basic precondition of enabling the equal right to vote without discrimination to Kosovo Serbs and other minorities in Kosovo and Metohija, as also indicated in the report on the work of UNMIK that is under consideration today. The actions of Pristina, as observed by UNMIK, is in direct contravention of its declared readiness and openness to increase mutual trust among all communities in Kosovo and Metohija. That is the purpose of the ongoing dialogue in which Serbia has invested considerably.

Therefore, we call on our partners and friends at the United Nations to support wholeheartedly and use their influence and authority to create conditions conducive to the equitable representation of numerous minority communities in all institutions without being overruled by the majority, as required also in the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, where it is recognized that the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities "contribute to the political and social stability of States in which they live. Cases involving forged sales agreements have remained unsolved. Serb claims for compensation for the damage caused to their property have been refused on a massive scale. All this indicates a discriminatory implementation of regulations and rules.

The issue of minority rights also implies the restitution of property belonging to non-Albanian communities in Kosovo and Metohija, among which Serbs constitute a majority. Moreover, there is the open question of the property owned by the State of Serbia and the Serbian Orthodox Church. The legal mechanisms established by UNMIK and EULEX to address property issues, assistance to courts to reduce the backlog of cases and provide adequate protection to individuals in cases of human rights violations have, regrettably,

not produced results. Such litigation accounts for 40 per cent of the unresolved cases before the courts in Kosovo and Metohija. Furthermore, the large number of forged ownership documents also impedes the upholding of property rights. The Kosovo Property Agency has iniated approximately 40,000 proceedings for the restitution of usurped land, while almost 700,000 plots of land have been occupied, according to unofficial data. One of the problems affecting property restitution is the lack of appropriate protection against eviction owing to unlawful repossession.

Also of interest is the observation with regard to the expropriation of Serbian property in Kosovo and Metohija based on the decision of the so-called Kosovo authorities for the purposes of highway construction. In the Gračanica municipality, for example, about 170 out of 213 expropriated properties belong to Serbs.

We have recently been informed that the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government intend to alter the legal status of the Trepča industrial complex, the majority owner of which is the Republic of Serbia. The complex employs many Serbs living in Kosovo and Metohija. The adoption of a new law designed to amend the ownership structure and the legal status of the Trepča complex would undoubtedly be another unilateral act that could result in altering the rights and the status of Trepča employees and members of the Serbian and other non-Albanian communities in Kosovo and Metohija. That is yet another attempt at illegal disposition of the property owned by the Republic of Serbia and a violation of fundamental property principles. Amendments to legal regulations would waive the rights of creditors. At this time, it is unclear how their claims will be dealt with, bearing in mind that only those creditors who have filed claims against Trepča company via the management team in charge of the establishment of the Community of Serbian Municipalities have claimed to be owed more than €268 million.

Furthermore, we also note that amendments have also been proposed in other areas. Such actions by Pristina show their inconsistency and disregard for the agreements reached. That is not the only area where laws are being amended before they have even been negotiated in Brussels. On the other hand, in areas in which there is agreement on amendments of the legal framework to help establish the Community of Serbian Municipalities, which is binding on Pristina, to date, no political will has been demonstrated to embark upon this process as an initial step towards implementing the agreements.

With the excuse of preserving peace, the Pristina side has been sabre-rattling. I am referring to the announced establishment of the so-called armed forces of Kosovo, which is not only in violation of the dialogue in which we have patiently invested, but also a gross violation of the provisions of resolution 1244 (1999). That resolution states that the international forces bear the responsibility for maintaining a secure environment for all inhabitants of the province, and therefore the possibility of creating the so-called armed forces is ruled out. Such an announcement poses a threat not only to stability in Serbia and the region, but also seriously undermines the authority and role of the United Nations in safeguarding international peace and security. In that context, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon pointed out that resolution 1244 (1999) remains the sole legal framework for the continued international security presence in Kosovo and Metohija, the mandate of which has been clearly defined.

I recall that the Kosovo security force has been based on the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), a paramilitary formation that during the war in Kosovo and Metohija spearheaded terrorist actions and took part in organized crime. Even though the international community intended to calm the situation on the ground, to demilitarize the KLA and to transform it into security structures, it made a breach. Instead of punishing, it supported separatism and spurred continued political violence and ethnic hatred.

I ask the Council whether the security forces whose members belong to criminal structures and international terrorists could be relied on in regional and collective security frameworks. Will the international community give the green light to that act, particularly taking into account the announced establishment of the special criminal tribunal to hear cases involving crimes committed by the KLA in organ trafficking, as reported by the Special Rapporteur of the Council of Europe, Mr. Dick Marty?

The support of Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly for the Marty report, with a vast majority of votes of member States, should have served as a strong warning to the international community and to all institutions that the inhabitants of Kosovo cannot see protection in such structures, but see only a threat. There is no legal basis for the creation and operation of

Kosovo's armed forces. On the other hand, I recall that in resolution 1244 (1999), the international community agreed to the return of our forces to Kosovo and Metohija.

In the light of the intended reconfiguration of EULEX, I would like to remind the Council that under resolution 1244 (1999), UNMIK is vested with the sole executive and legislative powers in Kosovo and Metohija. Consequently, the consent of the United Nations was needed to engage EULEX. EULEX received legitimacy in accordance with the Security Council presidential statement (S/PRST/2008/44), dated 26 November 2008, provided that it acted in accordance with resolution 1244 (1999), within the status-neutral framework of the United Nations. Although the powers and responsibilities of UNMIK relating to police, customs and the judiciary have almost entirely been transferred thereby to EULEX, it cannot be said that UNMIK has been replaced by the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo. Therefore, the EULEX reconfiguration must be carried out in cooperation with UNMIK and the United Nations, upon their approval and consent.

Regarding the transfer of powers to the Provisional Institutions in Pristina, I am confident that all those present in the Council will agree that powers reserved for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General can be transferred to the Provisional Institutions only with his authorization. The fact that those powers were entrusted to EULEX in no way diminishes the powers and responsibilities of the Special Representative. The transfer of EULEX powers to the Provisional Institutions in Pristina is harmful and unfair because, on the one hand, it is unreasonable that Serbia would have no say in it, and, on the other hand, it is considered responsible for implementation of the Brussels Agreement.

We must not lose sight of the fact that behind all our speeches, behind all reports and statements made, there are people whose sole wish is to have normal living conditions for their families, who wish to work to educate their children and ensure their safe future and a happy childhood and who want to enjoy all the rights available to them. Therefore, the reports on the situation in Kosovo should not become mere statistics. People are not mere numbers. Whenever we review the situation in the province, we should ask ourselves how much we have helped the local population to live better. I am not certain that the conditions are ripe for the Council to remain less actively seized of the matter. Although significant progress has been made, the final goal still eludes us.

While appreciating the legitimate interests of the Albanian, Serb and other populations of Kosovo, and fully respecting the mandate of the United Nations, Serbia will resume dialogue, pending a mutually agreed and sustainable solution. I expect UNMIK and all international players to continue to work within an undiminished scope and with the same intensity, and I urge the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to adopt a more engaging approach. That is the only way to contribute to the creation of conditions for lasting reconciliation and find a final solution for the issue of Kosovo and Metohija.

According to the report of the Council of Europe entitled "Inhuman treatment of people and illicit trafficking in human organs in Kosovo", hundreds of Serbs were kidnapped in Kosovo before, during and immediately after the 1999 conflict, and they were all sent to clandestine camps in the Republic of Albania. Many of them were forcibly operated on to harvest their organs, often in vivo, and later killed. Their organs were then sold on the international black market. The chief investigator into the allegations made in Dick Marty's report, international Prosecutor Clint Williamson, is in possession of a voluminous dossier on the crimes committed by former KLA members, and he is expected to hand it over to the judges of the special tribunal. The Prosecutor's dossier contains the names of 120 KLA commanders expected to be charged with the enforced disappearance of 320 Serbs in the regions of Orahovac, Drenica and Metohija.

Given that Serbia has done all it could to elucidate and prosecute all those who committed crimes against the Albanian population in Kosovo, we rightfully expect that the full truth will be known and that all those responsible for those heinous war crimes against Serbs in Kosovo will be punished. The families of Serb victims have an equal right, like other victims of crimes committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s, to see that justice is done.

For the historical reconciliation of the two nations and a comprehensive solution for the problem of Kosovo, it is necessary that both sides make compromises. We have done our bit and will continue the dialogue with the same intensity and greatest constructiveness. However, Pristina must be made aware that there can be no durable and comprehensive solution without an agreement with Serbia and a Security Council decision.

Fifteen years have elapsed since the armed conflict in Kosovo and Metohija. Instead of living in the past and making mutual recriminations, it is time to reach a sustainable solution for the future of the two nations. We reach out a hand to touch the other side. Our hand is extended for the sake of our children and their children.

Last week, Serbia was hit by catastrophic floods, among the largest that have affected Europe in the last 100 years. The natural disaster claimed dozens of human lives, flooded towns and villages, destroyed arable lands, devastated the economy and caused inestimable damage. To diminish the magnitude of the catastrophe, the citizens heeded the call of their Government and expressed a high level of solidarity, fighting courageously and calmly to save what was possible to save. Unfortunately, notwithstanding an enormous will and desire, we cannot rebuild alone what has been destroyed. We need assistance to make it possible for the citizens to restore what they have lost, to redo agricultural work where possible and, where it is not, to help them weather the year and begin the next year under more normal conditions. The Council has received DVDs featuring some of the tragedy that hit Serbia. I would appreciate it if Council members viewed them. Humans do not demean themselves if they ask for help, but they are great only if they proffer help.

I express my gratitude to all countries and peoples that have helped or that will help Serbia in the coming period to overcome the tragedy and destruction brought about in catastrophic floods. We do not ask from others what they do not have, but only part of what they have in excess of their needs. Their little more is much for us, and it is necessary. For what is the meaning of life other than to show empathy and the will to help others.

The President: I thank His Excellency Mr. Nikolić for his statement.

I now give the floor to Ms. Atifete Jahjaga.

Ms. Jahjaga: It is a distinct pleasure to be with the Council here today to share the developments in the Republic of Kosovo over the last three months, a period during which we have achieved much progress in consolidating our State, extending the rule of law into all corners of our territory and contributing to the peace and stability of the whole region of South-Eastern Europe.

On behalf of the institutions of Kosovo and its citizens, I would like to express our appreciation to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his contribution to peace and stability in Kosovo and the region, and to the member countries of the Security Council for their interest in and support to the overall progress of Kosovo and the region.

I would also like to use this opportunity to express our sincere condolences to the President of Serbia and its citizens for the loss of lives and property as they have battled terrible floods in the past few weeks. President Nikolić, our thoughts and prayers are with your citizens affected by that tragic natural disaster.

Over the past several months, the Republic of Kosovo has shown political maturity, courage and leadership, and we have reaped tangible results, inching us closer to our overall goal of creating a multi-ethnic and multicultural State of equal citizens living in peace and prosperity regardless of their ethnicity, gender, religious affiliation or race. Beyond our daily efforts to reach out, protect and integrate all of Kosovo's ethnic communities in the country's institutional and social life, we have constructively engaged with the Republic of Serbia in a thorough dialogue to normalize the relations between our States and to better the lives of our citizens.

Today Kosovo is a very different place from the destroyed country we inherited 15 years ago, with thousands of civilian deaths, many victims of torture and rape used as a tool of war, physical destruction and a legacy of hostilities and ethnic cleansing conducted by the Serbian forces. Recovery has not been easy. It took the generosity of the international community and the will of our citizens to get to where we stand today. It also took political will and courage to move on.

I take note of the support that Serbia's President, Mr. Tomislav Nikolić, has given to the process of dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia in the normalization of the relations between our countries. While we have our differences over Kosovo, it is important that we recognize the reality of Kosovo's independence and its irreversibility.

In conjunction with the political progress, we have focused much of our attention on further consolidating our sovereignty, extending and strengthening the rule of law, building a sound basis for economic development and attracting much-needed foreign investment, solidifying credible institutions and showing political will and maturity to press ahead and come closer to realizing our aspiration to join the European Union (EU) and other international bodies.

The Republic of Kosovo remains committed to the dialogue process with the Republic of Serbia. In that process — which began in 2011 and culminated in the comprehensive First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations of 19 April 2013, facilitated by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Baroness Catherine Ashton, and supported by the international community — we have reached political and societal inclusion and consensus. We have gone beyond ideological boundaries and the daily political agendas. We are determined to move on and to move forward. The process of the dialogue with Serbia has been one of our major efforts, and its implications reach far beyond the consolidation of Kosovo's sovereignty and territorial integrity and its membership in international organizations.

Agreements reached in Brussels are facilitating the full integration of the Serbian community in Kosovo. They have ended the operation of the illegal security structures supported by Serbia in parts of Kosovo, bringing the much-needed rule of law to the citizens of the northern part, who lived in an atmosphere of intimidation and lawlessness for far too long. Those agreements will bring daily services closer to the citizens of the northern municipalities. They have enhanced their freedom of movement as they have eased the movement of goods and increased the well-being of citizens on both sides of the border through proper revenue collection. While much of the focus has been on the north, we see those developments as positive for our entire society and beneficial to citizens across the country.

Agreements negotiated and signed in Brussels have boosted European perspectives for Kosovo and Serbia based on cooperation and good neighbourly relations, while setting them on distinctive paths to the European Union. The success of the dialogue process has confirmed once again the transformational power that the European Union project holds, paving the way to this Union and to us, to advance the momentum of the region's integration in its midst.

In that vein, I encourage the remaining five EU member States to recognize Kosovo's independence and further this perspective, which remains crucial to peace and stability in the Western Balkans and beyond. I also take this opportunity to express our appreciation to more than 100 countries around the world for recognizing Kosovo's statehood and endorsing its vision for a democratic and multi-ethnic country. And I urge the remaining United Nations Members that have yet to recognize Kosovo to do so.

As we marked the first anniversary of the bilateral normalization agreement reached in Brussels through the EU mediation of April 2013 between the Prime Ministers of both countries, Kosovo institutions have focused on the successful implementation of its 15 points. We are convinced that its full implementation in a consistent and effective manner will further transform our future relations and bring stability to the region. We thank our partners — the European Union, for its role as facilitator and guarantor of the dialogue process, and the United States, a strong supporter of this process — and encourage them to continue to stand by us as we move forward.

Considerable progress has been achieved in the implementation of the agreements, and we expect it to gain momentum again once the electoral processes in both countries are completed. In particular I would like to again highlight the successful completion of the local elections organized throughout Kosovo, including the official inauguration and adoption of municipal statutes in accordance with Kosovo law, as called for in the Brussels Agreement. I am pleased to note that participation by the Serbian community and other ethnic communities in Kosovo has been satisfactory.

With the completion of the statutes of the four northern municipalities, the association of the Serb majority municipalities can be created in accordance with Kosovo's Constitution, laws and the European Charter of Local Self-Government to ensure the integration of the Serbian community in the country. The association will be an integral part of the Kosovo institutions.

Similarly, good progress has been made on the customs revenue collection at the northern border crossings, as well as the establishment of the development fund and its management board, the closure of the offices of the Serbian Ministry of the Interior operating in those municipalities and the integration of their personnel in the Kosovo police force, as stipulated in the Brussels Agreement. We look forward to concluding the agreement on dismantling the parallel courts at the next meeting in Brussels, and we expect Serbia to meet its responsibilities in ceasing the work of those courts and paving the way to the integration of Kosovo Serb judges and prosecutors into Kosovo's justice system.

More remains to be done in the area of security in the four northern municipalities, including the disbandment of the remaining parallel structures. In this period, I note with concern instances of resistance to the establishment of rule of law in the four northern municipalities by paramilitary and criminal groups who have kept hostage the progress of the Serbiancommunity in Kosovo over the last 15 years. These structures also continue to endanger the staff of domestic and international law enforcement agencies, as witnessed recently with the attack on vehicles belonging to the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX), as well as with the erection of barricades that continue to prevent the freedom of movement. We expect the new Government in Serbia to keep its end of the Agreement and continue to engage constructively to ensure that Kosovo Serbs accept and endorse the agreements reached in Brussels in our joint efforts to bring stability and peace to our citizens, the region and beyond.

As we approach the early general elections in Kosovo, I have called on all mechanisms and all parties in Kosovo to ensure the stable environment and democratic and fair conditions that would allow for a free and inclusive vote. I reiterate my call on all Kosovo's ethnic communities to exercise their constitutional right through their full participation in the elections to choose their own representatives, who will give voice to their interests and demands, and to work jointly with us in strengthening democracy in Kosovo.

Kosovo's institutions remain committed to the return of all refugees and those displaced by the war. To make these returns sustainable, we have taken a comprehensive approach by investing in the housing sector, health and security, access to education and economic development. I am particularly encouraged that some of the recent returns have taken place in the urban centres, as well as by the cooperation of countries of the region in working with Kosovo's Government in facilitating these returns.

The Republic of Kosovo is committed to a comprehensive reform process that will enhance its future prospects for membership of the European Union (EU), the main priority that unifies the citizens of Kosovo and the option that enjoys institutional and societal consensus. Building on this tangible progress, I am pleased to inform the Council that earlier this month, Kosovo completed the negotiations on a stabilization and association agreement with the European Union as the first key step in our path to future membership. I look forward to the swift formalization of the results of the negotiations following the general elections in Kosovo, as we work to ensure a safe and sound environment for our citizens and a better quality of life as we pursue this European perspective. We have made significant progress in meeting the conditions to join the visa-free regime with the European Union, and we expect this process to be concluded soon.

During this period we have also completed a strategic review of our security sector. This whole-of-government process, conducted for the first time, was executed in an organic and transparent manner, studied the current and future security environment, and assessed the security needs of all our citizens and Kosovo's strategic security goals. Among the recommendations stemming from this process is the creation of the Kosovo armed forces, designed as a lightly armed defence force that we believe will meet the security challenges of Kosovo in the long term and be the vehicle through which we contribute to the Balkan region's collective security. The creation of the Kosovo armed forces will be a gradual, phased, decade-long and inclusive process that will seek not only the support of all the ethnic communities, but their active participation. Both security organizations in Kosovo have a good record of inclusiveness. Some 15 per cent of Kosovo's police force consists of officers from ethnic minorities, and about 9 per cent of the Kosovo Security Force are members of ethnic minorities.

On the creation of Kosovo armed forces, we have reached out to ethnic communities in Kosovo, the countries of the region and our international stakeholders in NATO to explain the outcomes of the review process, and we shall continue this important dialogue. In our effort to become security providers, Kosovo's institutions have and shall continue to act in partnership with the international community, and especially with NATO, in this process.

In our clear commitment to a European future for Kosovo, we have partnered with EULEX to strengthen the rule of law throughout the country. As we translate this strong commitment against corruption and organized crime into concrete actions, I have asked the European Union for an extension of the EULEX mandate until 2016. While EULEX will transition from an executive mandate into a mentoring role, its continued contribution to strengthening the independence of our multi-ethnic justice system will

be invaluable. Under the new mandate, EULEX will complete the pending cases and take up new ones upon the request of Kosovo's institutions. The new EULEX mandate, which was endorsed by Kosovo's Parliament, will continue to assist in the implementation, where agreed, of the EU-facilitated dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia.

In our efforts to stay true to the commitment to build a democratic Kosovo, at peace with itself and its neighbours, and the values and ideals enshrined in our Constitution, Kosovo's Parliament has endorsed the creation of a special court, with internal and external seats, to address war crime allegations arising from a report of the Council of Europe in 2010. The creation of the special court reflects Kosovo's determination to engage in an independent and impartial process to credibly address these allegations, as we believe that a commitment to justice for all is the only way to true reconciliation in the region.

As we speak here today, working-level teams from Kosovo and Serbia are digging out a mass grave in the Serbian town of Rudnica, unearthing the remains of some of the 1,712 missing from the Kosovo war. These are bodies of Kosovo Albanian civilians abducted and executed by Serbian forces during the war. Closing this chapter goes beyond politics. As leaders of our countries, it is our obligation to help bring closure to thousands of shattered families by empowering the Commissions working on the issue of the missing to investigate their fates and showing political will and courage to bring to justice those that perpetrated these horrendous crimes.

We have worked intensively to open a new chapter in Kosovo, where each and every citizen shall enjoy equality and live in freedom and peace. A lot has been achieved and much remains to be accomplished. I am encouraged by the change we have seen in the region and the endorsement that we have received from the international community, which stood by our side to offer clear and distinct perspectives to Kosovo and Serbia on their paths to the European Union.

Kosovo will stay committed to building good relations with its neighbours that promote cooperation and mutual trust — a paradigm shift for a region engulfed in war less than two decades ago. On this path, we were guided by the deep conviction that we must not allow a repetition of the painful past and the immeasurable suffering inflicted upon the lives of Kosovo's citizens. There will continue to be contradictions and tensions as we move forward, yet I believe that the progress achieved thus far should and will be maintained as we stand determined to secure a prosperous future for the young generations.

We want to continue to cement the gains we have made in strengthening Kosovo internally and consolidating it internationally, as the two processes are tightly linked. As we move forward, we seek the Council's help and guidance, as the success in Kosovo and the advancement of this momentum will be our joint legacy, just as today's Kosovo, living in peace and prosperity, is our joint success.

I would also like to add that there can be no more credible testimony to who did what during the 1990s than the verdicts of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, which was established by the United Nations. Also, there can be no more authoritative indication of the legality of Kosovo's independence than the opinion of the International Court of Justice, a United Nations organ. I thank Council members for their attention and support for progress in Kosovo.

The President: I thank Ms. Jahjaga for her statement. I now give the floor to Council members.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We welcome the participation of President Tomislav Nikolić in this Council meeting. At the outset, we would like to express our condolences for the natural disaster that has struck Serbia. The Russian Federation has been providing assistance in overcoming the consequences of the disaster. We agree with the comments and share the assessments of President Nikolić. We also listened closely to the statement by Ms. Atifete Jahjaga. We would like to thank Mr. Zarif for presenting the report of the Secretary-General (S/2014/305) on the work of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

The United Nations Mission is the main international presence in the province. We call upon it to fully and actively implement its mandate. To do so, it needs to have all the necessary resources. We condemn attempts to undermine the role of UNMIK and we call on the Kosovo Albanian side to provide full-fledged cooperation with the United Nations presence.

We note the steps that have been taken towards normalizing relations between Belgrade and Pristina in the framework of dialogue at the highest political level. It is important for that work to lead to progress on ensuring the rights of the Serb population of the

province. We share the assessment in the report of the Secretary-General on the need to establish as quickly as possible a community of Serb municipalities of Kosovo as an instrument to protect collective Serb interests and, consequently, stability in the region as a whole.

The situation of Serbs in Kosovo continues to be rather dispiriting. There has been practically no progress in the return of Serbian refugees and the re-establishment of their property rights. People are afraid to return to Kosovo, given the threat of ethnically motivated violence, the lack of security guarantees and the failure of local authorities to protect their rights. It is important to recall that the creation of conditions to achieve that is one of the main demands of resolution 1244 (1999). We continue to witness ongoing looting and usurpation of Serb property and the desecration of Serb cemeteries. Exiled Serbs often cannot even visit the tombs of their ancestors, even during orthodox holidays. On the walls of Serbs monasteries and homes, insulting slogans and threats have appeared. Recently, a similar incident occurred in the monastery of Visoki Dečani, which is under the protection of NATO's Kosovo Force. Routine public condemnations by the Kosovo Albanian authorities is insufficient. There is a need for a true combatting of all forms of ethnic and religious intolerance. However, the results of investigations into a number of high-profile ethnic crimes have yet to be seen.

We believe that the initiative of creating the so-called Kosovo armed forces is counterproductive. Unfortunately, the report of the Secretary-General gives very vague assessments of such moves by Pristina.

We note the decision to extend the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) until June 2016. We call upon it to be guided by its mandate and to act in an entirely neutral manner. At the same time, as the report of the European Court of Auditors states, the effectiveness of EU assistance to Pristina in the area of the rule of law is insignificant. It is important to note that, of course, the authority of the Security Council cannot be delegated to a third party, in particular Pristina's structures.

We also welcome the Special Investigative Task Force's continued efforts to look into the crimes uncovered by the Council of Europe Special Rapporteur, Mr. Marty, including trafficking in human organs. All those who are guilty need to be brought to justice, and we hope that the unusual format of the Task Force will make it possible to ensure objective and impartial justice that will not be subject to any kind of political expediency.

The reports of participation by Kosovo Albanians in the Syrian conflict is very worrisome, in particular regarding their affiliation with Al-Qaida-affiliated terrorist groups such as Jabhat al-Nusra and the Islamic State in Iraq in the Levant. We very strongly support putting an end to that kind of activity.

We would like to confirm that Russia's position on the issue of Kosovo remains unchanged. We are in favour of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Serbia. We believe that resolution 1244 (1999) remains fully relevant and lays out the obligations for all involved, as the international legal framework for the resolution of the Kosovo conflict.

Mr. Lamek (France) (*spoke in French*): I thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for his statement, and I welcome President Jahjaga and President Nikolić.

At the outset, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to President Nikolić following the disaster of exceptional magnitude that has affected his country and neighbouring States bordering the Sava. The international community stands side by side with them in that ordeal. The European Union (EU) and its member States have already mobilized and will continue to bring them the assistance they need.

A year has passed since the historic First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations of 19 April 2013. It is crucial that the spirit of harmony and cooperation that has prevailed continue to reign between the parties in terms of its implementation and that the dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade remain regular and of high quality. The parties must remain committed and engaged and retain a constructive spirit in the search for compromise.

We will pay attention, as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General invites us to do, to the pursuit of the effective implementation of the Agreement of 19 April 2013, including the complete dismantling of Serb parallel structures in northern Kosovo; the early conclusion of a legal agreement; and finally the development, in a spirit of openness, of a community of Serb municipalities in Kosovo, with real responsibilities.

We would also like to welcome the decision by the Kosovo Parliament, on 24 April, to ratify an exchange of letters between EU High Representative Catherine

Ashton and the President of Kosovo, whom I commend for adopting a responsible attitude. That exchange of letters and its approval by a large majority in Parliament shows Kosovar parties' and leaders' vision and thus their political maturity. Thanks to that exchange of letters, the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX), the strategic review of which was conducted with close cooperation between Pristina and Brussels, has been extended for two additional years.

Moreover, the exchange of letters establishes a Kosovar court of law, the mechanisms of which will enable follow-up, under the best possible conditions, of the work carried out by Lead Prosecutor Williamson of the Special Investigative Task Force. That decision shows the desire of Kosovars to engage in a legal process that will allow for a credible and impartial response to serious allegations. By agreeing to shed light on acts allegedly committed by individuals, Kosovo thus demonstrates that it is ready to close the painful chapter of war, contribute to regional reconciliation and demonstrate its commitment to European values.

We condemn last month's incident involving a EULEX vehicle, which took place only a few months after the death of a Lithuanian officer in the Mission in the performance of his functions. It is unacceptable that those personnel are endangered, and we recall that all parties must respect the freedom of movement of troops and personnel deployed as part of the Kosovo Force and EULEX. However — and fortunately — Kosovo continues to enjoy a generally calm and stable situation.

France supports the development of a sovereign, peaceful, democratic and multi-ethnic Kosovo, living in peace with its neighbours. The parliamentary elections are planned to take place on 8 June. We invite Kosovars from all communities to go to the polls and thus participate in the construction of their common destiny. We call for the holding of transparent and democratic elections, for which the European Union has already deployed a new election observation mission.

It is important to protect the rights of the various communities throughout the territory of Kosovo, in particular regarding their cultural and religious heritage. We strongly condemn any desecration of Serbian monasteries and cemeteries and, more generally, any attack against religious or cultural sites. Such actions should not go unpunished. They must be unanimously condemned for what they are: an obstacle to the emergence of a multi-ethnic State respectful of the rights of its minorities. We encourage fruitful dialogue launched between the authorities in Pristina and the Serbian Orthodox Church in Kosovo. In addition, it is also important to facilitate the return of refugees and internally displaced persons in conditions of safety and socioeconomic reintegration.

The positive developments seen in Kosovo over recent years must also be accompanied by concrete measures to strengthen the rule of law and transparency, and to enable the development of a climate favourable to business and economic development. Interference in judicial proceedings is not acceptable.

I conclude by commending the joint progress of Kosovo and Serbia towards Europe following the normalization of their relations. An important step in the negotiations between the European Commission and Pristina with a view towards the finalization of the Stabilization and Association Agreement was begun on 6 May. We hope it will soon be concluded.

Serbia, for its part, has made significant efforts in terms of internal reforms and relations with its neighbours. These culminated in the launch on 21 January of negotiations on accession to the European Union. It is now up to the two countries to uphold their commitments in the context of these negotiations with a view to continuing their respective European integration.

Mr. Laro (Nigeria): I join other speakers in thanking Special Representative of the Secretary-General Zarif for his comprehensive update on the situation in Kosovo. I also thank the President of Serbia and Ms. Atifete Jahjaga for their statements.

Nigeria expresses its deepest sympathy to the people of Serbia for the loss of life and substantial material damage caused by the recent floods in the country. The continued collaboration between the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) and other facilitators, such as the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), has helped with the consolidation of peace and stability in Kosovo and the attainment of progress in the implementation of the First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations of 19 April 2013. This is evident in the willingness of the parties to narrow their differences in their respective positions, thus making it easier to achieve consensus on residual issues.

The integration of former Serbian police officers into the Kosovo Police, as well as the ongoing European Union-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina to commence accession negotiations are further indications of commitment towards the 19 April Agreement. These strategies, aimed at facilitating sustainable peace and stability, should be encouraged by all parties.

The report of the Secretary-General (S/2014/305) indicates that members of the Assembly of Kosovo representing the Kosovo Serb and other minority communities have expressed concern that certain provisions of the draft law on general elections are setting new criteria for voter eligibility, which these groups believe will affect their eligibility to vote. The OSCE considers that draft law to be incompatible with other laws, and has acknowledged that the changes in the voter eligibility criteria might discourage participation in elections by minority voters. In the interests of fairness and inclusiveness, we believe that the law should take into consideration the concerns of the Serbs and other minority groups in Kosovo.

One of the recommendations emerging from the two-year Strategic Security Sector Review is for the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) to be transformed into the Kosovo armed forces. We note that neither NATO nor KFOR was involved in drafting the recommendation. That is significant, as the report indicates that any changes to the mandate and structure of the Kosovo Security Force might have an impact on NATO's provision of continued support to Kosovo.

The report also shows that the Serbian authorities and Kosovo Serb representatives have expressed serious reservations about the proposed transformation of the KSF into the Kosovo armed forces. Indeed, the Serbian authorities view it as a violation of resolution 1244 (1999). In that regard, we see the need for the Kosovo to proceed carefully with this aspect of its security sector review by taking into consideration the concerns of all stakeholders. We welcome the assurances given here today by Ms. Jahjaga that the authorities of Kosovo will continue their engagement on this issue.

While we acknowledge the gains made in the implementation of the first agreement, the situation in northern Kosovo remains a cause for concern. Increasing political tensions arising from arrest, detentions, protests and offences against EULEX give rise to heightened insecurity in Kosovo, and must be comprehensively addressed. Restrictions imposed on visits to Kosovo by Serbian officials, police actions in Shtërpcë/Štrpce and retaliatory attacks on the Kosovo Police are issues that require urgent attentions in order to avoid an escalation of tensions.

We urge all sides to take steps to prevent a relapse into violence while making strident efforts to reach a comprehensive and mutually acceptable solution to issues in the territory and the region. We also encourage the unimpeded resettlement of minority returnees and internally displaced persons in Kosovo. We believe that the effort of the Government to address the low rate of voluntary return and reintegration of displaced persons is vital. We take note of the strategy for communities and returns for 2014-2018 and hope that it will promote voluntary returns in the medium-to-long term.

We welcome the extension of the EULEX mandate until 14 June 2016 and commend its role in stabilizing the region. We look forward to the finalization of its strategic review, which will adjust its operations and improve the Mission's performance on the ground.

Finally, we commend Special Representative of the Secretary-General Zarif and his team for their unrelenting efforts in promoting peace and stability in Kosovo, as well as in the region. We assure him and his Mission of our continued support.

Ms. King (Australia): I would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General Zarif for his briefing to the Council on the activities of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) during the reporting period. I would also like to welcome to the Council the President of Serbia, Mr. Tomislav Nikolić, and the President of Kosovo, Mrs. Atifete Jahjaga, and to thank them very much for their statements. I would also like to convey Australia's condolence to President Nikolić and to the communities in Serbia which have suffered the loss of family members in the unprecedented flooding. These losses are being deeply felt within affected communities in Australia.

Serbia and Kosovo have achieved remarkable progress over the past two years in their high-level political dialogue to normalize their relations and in the implementation of the 19 April 2013 agreement. As the Secretary-General says in his report (S/2014/305), the parties have been steadily narrowing their differences. We welcome the efforts of political leaders in both Belgrade and Pristina, and commend them for the progress they have made. The progress on the police

integration chapter of the First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations of 19 April 2013has been particularly important. The 284 former Serbian police officers now serving with the Kosovo police force enhance the trust that Kosovo Serbs have in Kosovar institutions and therefore represent an important confidence-building measure for the community. As the Secretary-General observes in his report, some challenges remain, including with regard to the establishment of the association of Serbian municipalities in Kosovo. Yet that, too, remains important. We encourage both sides to work towards finding an appropriate role for the association.

Australia commends the Kosovo Assembly's decision on 23 April to establish a special court within the Kosovo court system with seats within and outside Kosovo, designed to adjudicate allegations arising from the work of the Special Investigative Task Force. We acknowledge that this was a difficult and sensitive decision. In establishing a credible judicial process that we hope can finally resolve the grave allegations of organ trafficking during the 1990s conflict, Kosovo has reaffirmed its commitment to the rule of law, and we commend this decision.

The proposal to reform Kosovo's security forces has also proved to be a sensitive issue, both domestically and regionally. Australia recognizes Kosovo's right as an independent nation to develop its security forces, particularly in the framework of its continued cooperation with NATO. We recommend that every effort be made to ensure that Kosovo's armed forces are developed in full transparency and dialogue with key regional neighbours.

We would like to acknowledge the importance of the continued deployment of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX). We acknowledge the report of the European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on EULEX activities. EULEX's refocused mandate, voted on by the Kosovo Assembly and supported by President Jahjaga in her April letter, will ensure that EULEX can continue to investigate and prosecute serious organized crime and war crimes, and help build the capacity of Kosovo's multi-ethnic justice and police institutions until 15 June 2016. We condemn the attack on EULEX vehicles on 25 April and call for a swift and thorough investigation. We remain encouraged, however, that the overall security situation remains calm and that Kosovo remains on a positive trajectory. This lends credence, in our view, to the argument that the Security Council could decrease the frequency of its debates on the situation in Kosovo.

The return of the significant numbers of people displaced during the Kosovo conflict is an essential component of the long-term reconciliation process in Kosovo, but this cannot happen without a holistic approach to returns policy, addressing housing, security, freedom of movement, access to public services and employment opportunities. Australia welcomes Kosovo's new strategy for communities and returns for the period 2014-2018, and encourages all relevant Kosovar authorities to implement it fully.

To conclude, the opening by Serbia in January of accession talks with the European Union, and the conclusion of negotiations on a future stabilization and association agreement for Kosovo, are historic steps on the respective paths of both countries towards European integration. Following the understandable short pause during the general elections in Serbia, and the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Kosovo scheduled for 8 June, it is now important that the newly elected leaderships in Belgrade and Pristina re-engage with renewed purpose and vision in the political dialogue supported by the European Union. This will ensure that positive momentum is maintained and full normalization of relations achieved, to the mutual benefit and prosperity of the people of Serbia and Kosovo.

Mr. Tatham (United Kingdom): I thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo, Mr. Farid Zarif, for his briefing today. I am delighted to welcome to the Council Her Excellency President Atifete Jahjaga and His Excellency President Tomislav Nikolić.

We recognize that President Nikolić's visit comes at a very difficult time for Serbia, following the catastrophic flooding and tragic loss of life that his country has experienced in recent weeks. It has been devastating for the hundreds of thousands affected in Serbia and across the region. My Government is providing support in response to the floods through the coordinated approach of the European Union (EU). A team from London has travelled to Belgrade to look at how we can assist in a needs assessment to make the best possible use of the international support now and in future reconstruction efforts. The United Kingdom expresses its solidarity with the Serbian people, and

indeed all those in the region who are sufferir , as a result of this natural disaster.

Turning to the subject of the debate, the United Kingdom welcomes Kosovo's continued progress both internally and on the international stage. We welcome the fact that Kosovo is recognized by more than half the United Nations Member States, and we encourage those countries that have not yet recognized Kosovo to do so.

Regarding internal progress, the United Kingdom notes in particular the conclusion of local elections in Mitrovica North, and looks forward to similarly successful parliamentary elections next month. Before its dissolution, the Kosovo Assembly undertook two significant steps towards strengthening Kosovo's relationship with the European Union. The United Kingdom welcomes its ratification of an exchange of letters to extend the mandate of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) for two years, and the signing of the agreement on the content of the Stabilization and Association Agreement between the European Union and Kosovo. We continue to support the important work of EULEX, including its assistance in the implementation of the EU-facilitated dialogue agreements. In particular, we urge continued cooperation with EULEX operations on the part of communities and elected leaders in the north of Kosovo. We strongly condemn the attack on the EULEX convoy last month, and call on those with information about that incident, and about the murder of the Lithuanian customs officer last September, to help the police with their inquiries.

We are pleased to note the Kosovo Assembly's decision to establish the framework for a special court to hear any cases that may arise from the report of the EULEX Special Investigative Task Force, led by Clint Williamson. This has been a major achievement, and it demonstrates Kosovo's willingness to confront difficult rule-of-law issues. We urge all parties to continue to support this important judicial process.

The United Kingdom congratulates both Serbia and Kosovo on their efforts so far to normalize relations through the EU-faciliated dialogue. The Secretary-General's report (S/2014/305) rightly refers to the remarkable progress achieved since the start of the dialogue at prime-ministerial level in October 2012. It is now vital to sustain and build on that progress. It is perhaps inevitable that the combination of Serbian elections and forthcoming elections in Kosovo have resulted in a slowdown in the pace of the dialogue; nevertheless, we hope that the next meeting will take place soon, and we urge both sides to redouble their efforts, to avoid losing the impressive earlier momentum.

We urge both Belgrade and Pristina to continue implementing the First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations of 19 April 2013. We recognize that steps have been taken, but full implementation of the dialogue agreement is not yet in sight. It is essential that the establishment of the association of Serb-majority municipalities and its statute be agreed on soon, and that other commitments, such as on the judiciary and on telecommunications and energy, are concluded without further delay. We also call on both sides to ensure the maximum participation of all communities in Kosovo's upcoming national elections.

I would like to react to concerns that have been expressed by some about the proposed transition of the Kosovo Security Force into the Kosovo armed forces. Neither the Kosovo Security Force nor the Kosovo armed forces is mentioned or prohibited by resolution 1244 (1999). The resolution does make specific reference to armed Kosovo Albanian groups. The Kosovo Security Force cannot, in our view, be classed as such, given that it is multi-ethnic and controlled by the civil State.

Reference has been made in statements today to Kosovo Albanians participating in foreign conflicts. We welcome the fact that there has been strong condemnation of such participation by numerous local and international actors, including the Islamic community of Kosovo. We also note the stated intention of the Kosovo authorities to establish clear legislation prohibiting such participation.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the launch by President Jahjaga in Kosovo on 7 March of a national council for survivors of sexual violence. I also note subsequent legislative amendments adopted by the Kosovo Assembly to recognize and protect survivors of sexual violence.

The Council is rightly very focused on the prevention of sexual violence. The United Kingdom supports efforts to deal effectively and sensitively with the consequences of sexual violence on those tragic occasions where it has happened. The United Kingdom welcomes the fact that the challenge is being addressed in Kosovo.

Finally, the United Kingdom reiterates its view that the Council should consider reducing the frequency with which we meet for these debates. The overall positive backdrop makes that, in our view, an appropriate step.

Ms. Murmokaitė (Lithuania): I would like to start by thanking Mr. Farid Zarif, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his briefing. I would also like to thank His Excellency Mr. Tomislav Nikolić, President of Serbia, and Her Excellency Ms. Atifete Jahjaga, President of Kosovo, for their statements.

Let me first of all express Lithuania's condolences to and solidarity with all those in Serbia affected by the worst flooding in the region in over a century. Lithuania, together with other international partners, stands ready to offer assistance and support to the flood victims.

I would like to note Kosovo's constructive approach in the negotiations for a Stabilization and Association Agreement with the European Union (EU), which were formally completed on 6 May. That is a reflection of Kosovo's commitment to continuing comprehensive reforms on its European path.

Today, I would like to touch upon three elements — implementation of the Belgrade-Pristina First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations, elections and the extension of the mandate of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX).

During the reporting period, Belgrade and Pristina maintained active engagement in the EU-facilitated dialogue, even though the pace was somewhat reduced due to the electoral cycles in both Serbia and Kosovo. The continued commitment and political will of the leaders to proceed with the dialogue and implementation of the Agreement is commendable and encouraging. We welcome the statement made by the head of the new Government of Serbia, Mr. Vučić, that the continuation of the Brussels-based dialogue is a priority for his Government and is in the best interests of the Serbs in Kosovo.

We hope that after the results of the parliamentary elections in Kosovo on 8 June, tangible steps towards normalization of relations with Serbia will continue as well. The progress achieved so far must be sustained and further advanced. We trust that a fair and democratic conduct of the parliamentary elections in Kosovo will further strengthen the functioning of democracy there and will increase confidence in State institutions. The elections in Kosovo will be followed closely by the international community. We support the role of European Union Election Observation Mission and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in providing assistance to local authorities in conducting the elections in accordance with international standards.

At the moment, the Kosovo Force and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) continue to contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability on the ground, while EULEX plays a key role in the consolidation of the rule of law. It is in Kosovo's legitimate interest to develop its own capabilities to ensure rule of law and security within its territory. That goal is fully achievable. Lithuania welcomes the decision of the Kosovo Assembly on the creation of a special court to follow-up on cases investigated by the Special Investigative Task Force on war crimes, as well as the invitation to extend the EULEX mandate for another two years.

Much remains to be done, however. The escape of the three high-profile war crimes suspects is a cause for concern. We call on the Kosovo authorities to ensure due process in war crimes investigations and to bring all perpetrators to justice. The situation in the north remains complex. Security gaps affect institutions, international actors and the daily life of local communities. A recent attack on 25 April against EULEX police reminded us of the 19 September 2013 attack, when a Lithuanian customs officer was killed. We call on the respective authorities to thoroughly investigate all such criminal acts and to bring their perpetrators to justice.

The implementation of the April Agreement aims at building inclusive societies and bridges between people. Tackling the legacies of the past and ensuring transitional and transnational justice for all the victims, including minority refugees and displaced persons, remains a cornerstone of peaceful cohabitation within the State and among the countries. In the context of progress in implementing the Belgrade-Pristina Agreement, my delegation, like others whose representatives have spoken before me, remains open to reviewing the current UNMIK debate cycle with a view to reducing its frequency, as well as considering a reduction of the United Nations peacekeeping operation in Kosovo in accordance with the development of facts on the ground.

Mrs. Perceval (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, on behalf of Argentina, I would like to express our full solidarity with Serbia in the light of the regrettable situation it is experiencing due to the recent floods, which, as has been said, are the worst in the past 120 years. We would like to express our condolences to the family members of the victims, to the Government of Serbia and to the region as a whole at this difficult time.

I would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Farid Zarif, for presenting the report (S/2014/305) on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). We would also like to welcome the participation of President Tomislav Nikolić and Ms. Atifete Jahjaga.

Argentina, as is our tradition, would like to emphasize the important role that the United Nations is playing in Kosovo through UNMIK in promoting security, stability and respect for human rights as well as in its cooperation with the Kosovo Force and the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX), which has maintained a neutral position with regard to the status of Kosovo under the auspices of the United Nations.

It is important to recall that Argentina voted in favour of resolution 1244 (1999) when it was also a member of the Security Council. Argentina believes that the resolution continues to be the international legal basis that applies in Kosovo to achieve a comprehensive solution through a political process and through negotiations. We reiterate once again the importance of UNMIK, not only in assisting the process of local elections that were held in November and December, last year but also in supporting Belgrade and Pristina, whose firm leadership has permitted the taking of the measures necessary to the full establishment of new municipal Governments in the north of Kosovo.

With regard to security, we welcome the fact that crime rates dropped during the reporting period and that the overall situation is stable. However, we are concerned that attacks against Serb Kosovars continue, especially in Pejë/Peć and in the town of Istog/Istok. We also condemn the repeated acts of vandalism against cemeteries and property of the Serbian Orthodox Church. It is up to the corresponding authorities to take measures so that those acts are not repeated. Bearing that in mind, we think that the response of the Kosovo police with regard to crimes against ethnic minorities has improved and that the increase in patrolling in areas shared by different ethnic populations, as has occurred in the municipality of Klinë/Klina, could be an important step forward.

We welcome the commitment of the parties to continuing the high-level dialogue under the auspices of the European Union and we highlight the important progress achieved in implementing the historic First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations of 19 April 2013. We urge the parties to continue those efforts and consolidate the progress achieved, in particular by reaching an agreement on the establishment of the community or association of Serbian municipalities. We underline the progress in one area of the Agreement that is particularly sensitive, namely, the incorporation of the personnel of the Ministry of Interior of Serbia into the Kosovo police. We urge the parties to continue on that path through dialogue and the application of the Agreement in order to make progress on the related issue of the judiciary and other areas of the rule of law.

The Republic of Serbia, in particular, has continued to show its genuine commitment to the process of implementing the April 2013 Agreement. We would therefore encourage all the international stakeholders on the ground to continue working together in line with their respective mandates in order to contribute towards consolidating the achievements and the effective resolution of pending issues.

While we are encouraged that the security situation in Kosovo has been mostly calm, that does not mean that we should not continue to focus on the security situation in northern Mitrovica. In that regard, we reiterate that the important work of UNMIK continues to be essential in providing the greatest support to the political processes, in particular giving special attention to the implementation of the 19 April 2013 Agreement.

Argentina believes that it is very important to achieve full respect for the human rights of displaced persons and members of minority groups so that they can return to their places of origin and accede to substantive rights and not be the victims of discrimination or intimidation. While the adoption of a strategy for communities and returns for 2014-2018, which prioritizes housing construction, security, freedom of movement, access to public services and employment opportunities, and the fact that the situation of displaced Kosovo Roma, Kosovo Ashkali and Kosovo Egyptians has improved are both positive, the report recognizes

that displaced Serbs continue to face difficulties. We urge the authorities to redouble their efforts to promote tolerance, respect and reconciliation and to confront all forms of discrimination.

Argentina remains concerned by the relatively low rate of voluntary returns of Kosovars to the region since their displacement 15 years ago. We call on the authorities to continue working to implement measures, such as the aforementioned strategy, to address those unresolved issues, which remain obstacles to facilitating the return and definitive reintegration of internally displaced persons.

It is also crucially important to continue to give priority to the tasks of overcoming the traces and legacy of the conflict, including the pending cases of 1,712 disappeared persons. We underscore the holding of new meetings of the Working Group on Missing Persons in Belgrade and Pristina, under the chairmanship of the International Committee of the Red Cross. UNMIK should continue to support and encourage efforts to ascertain the fate of disappeared persons. We also call for redoubled efforts and cooperation so that impunity is the not the last word on serious violations of human rights.

We highlight the work being done by UNMIK to support the rule of law, especially its cooperation with all the pertinent interested parties with regard to the main problems on the ground. We think that it is important for international presences to continue strengthening mutual cooperation in order to establish the appropriate conditions to implement the 19 April 2013 Agreement in the best way possible.

We conclude by highlighting the work done by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to promote security, stability and respect for human rights in Kosovo in accordance with resolution 1244 (1999).

Mr. Nduhungirehe (Rwanda): I would like to thank Mr. Farid Zarif, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his comprehensive briefing, and commend the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), under his leadership, for its achievements in implementing its mission. I thank His Excellency Mr. Tomislav Nikolić, President of Serbia, and Ms. Atifete Jahjaga of Kosovo for their respective statements. Our thoughts and prayers go to the Serbian people, under the Serbian Government, after the devastating floods of last week.

Rwanda welcomes the continued dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade towards the full implementation of the First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations of 19 April 2013. We commend the European Union (EU) for facilitating the ongoing dialogue and encourage both sides to remain engaged in fruitful discussions on their common objective of integration within the European Union.

We also acknowledge the achievements of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) in promoting the rule of law in Kosovo. We take note of the extension of EULEX mandate until 15 June 2016 and the continuation of the EULEX Special Investigative Task Force, which is focused on investigating the alleged trafficking of organs. We hope that the ongoing EULEX strategic review will enable the Mission to continue supporting Kosovo in strengthening the rule of law, particularly in the judiciary customs and police areas.

Rwanda welcomes the progress made towards the normalization of relations between Serbia and Kosovo, as demonstrated by the inclusion of former Serbian police officers who are now on active duty in northern Kosovo as part of the integration of the Serbian Ministry of the Interior personnel into the Kosovo police. That is an encouraging confidence-building effort, which we hope will be followed by a final agreement on the integration of Serbian parallel judicial institutions into Kosovo's legal system within the framework of the EU-facilitated dialogue.

On the return of displaced persons, we remain concerned that the rate of return remains relatively low. However, we welcome Kosovo's strategy for communities and returns for 2014-2018, which is aimed at improving and providing a conducive environment for returnees with regard to housing construction, local security, freedom of movement, access to public services and employment. We consider that initiative to be an important step in the overall integration of Serbs into Kosovo and we welcome the efforts of all municipalities south of the Ibar/Ibër river that have complied with the statutory requirement of appointing minority community officers to key positions.

On the security situation, we note that Kosovo remains generally stable and that the crime rate continues to decline. We underscore the central role and the important work done by the authorities and police in that regard. However, we are concerned about the

multiplication of incidents in northern Kosovo, mainly attacks on UNMIK convoys, the arrest of Kosovo Serb officials, violent protests and the restrictions on visits by Serbian officials. We also express concern at incidents affecting Kosovo Serbs, mainly violations of property, including property of the Serbian Orthodox Church, the desecration of graves and offensive graffiti. We urge the Kosovo authorities to redouble their efforts in preventing and investigating those incidents so that the authors can be held accountable. We stress the need for the Kosovo authorities to protect Kosovo Serbs and other ethnic minorities, which is a prerequisite for reconciliation.

In conclusion, as Kosovo prepares for parliamentary elections on 8 June, my delegation recognizes the tremendous efforts and progress made by both parties towards the full implementation of the 19 April 2013 Agreement. We encourage them to go the extra mile through dialogue, which is the only way to ensure sustainable peace between both sides. We thank the European Union for its continued facilitation and we pay tribute to Special Representative of the Secretary-General Farid Zarif for his continued commitment in implementing the UNMIK mandate.

Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank Mr. Farid Zarif, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), for his comprehensive briefing. I welcome both Her Excellency the President of the Republic of Kosovo, Ms. Atifete Jahjaga, and His Excellency the President of the Republic of Serbia, Mr. Nikolić, and thank them both for their statements. Allow me to convey the condolences of the Kingdom of Jordan to the Government of Serbia and its people and to the Governments of neighbouring countries for the victims of the flood that hit the Balkans region earlier this month.

The progress made in Kosovo and the calm security situation prompts a certain optimism at a time when the agenda of the Security Council is crowded with complex disputes and delicate situations in various regions. Today we must commend the leaders in Kosovo and the different parts of the Kosovar community for their dedication in building a unified multi-ethnic and democratic State and for their serious engagement with the international community. We call on all countries to support them in their endeavours.

Jordan supports the ongoing active participation of Belgrade and Pristina in the European Union-facilitated dialogue, and the serious commitment shown by both sides during those meetings. We applaud recent agreements regarding technical judicial matters. We believe that both parties share the responsibility to pursue the dialogue and to continue making progress towards the full and faithful implementation of the First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations.

The European Union continues to play a pivotal role in advancing progress in that dialogue. We express the hope that the aspirations of both parties to integration into the European Union and to strengthening relations with regional organizations will contribute to promoting regional security and stability, as well as the development of cooperation among countries of the region in various fields in a manner that meets the aspirations of the people and contributes to their prosperity.

We welcome the ongoing cooperation between Kosovo and the European Union on extending the mandate of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo and the strategic review of the role of the Mission and its functions in the upcoming period of its mandate, while taking into account the progress made in the implementation of relevant agreements on the rule of law on the ground.

Ensuring the prosecution of the perpetrators of grave crimes committed during conflicts, regardless of the ethnicity of the perpetrator or the victim, is a main pillar of transitional justice. It is equally important in post-conflict societies seeking to consolidate reconciliation to ensure that all parties feel that justice in the future will always be sought and provided for in a fair and adequate manner. In that regard, Jordan commends the commitment of Kosovo to ensuring the rule of law and its establishment of a special court to look into the allegations contained in the 2010 Marty report.

All issues arising from the past conflict must continue to be addressed because they have a significant impact on the collective psychological state of the different communities in Kosovo and the region, including issues related to internally displaced persons, returnees and missing persons. We hope that UNMIK and other international organizations will continue to

contribute to addressing such issues in order to build trust and deepen reconciliation.

The successful conduct of local elections in the Republic of Kosovo is proof of the Government's commitment to building inclusive State institutions and of the abilities of the Kosovo authorities to manage the democratic process and to hold free and fair elections, as has been emphasized by international observers. Jordan hopes that preparations for the legislative elections in Kosovo will continue apace and with wide participation. We also hope that the elections will be held with equal success.

In conclusion, we would like to express our appreciation to the Head of UNMIK for his and for the efforts of all UNMIK personnel in the implementation of all aspects of the Mission.

Mr. Cherif (Chad) (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Farid Zarif, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his briefing. I also welcome the presence of His Excellency Mr. Tomislav Nikolić, President of Serbia, and Ms. Atifete Jahjaga, President of Kosovo, and thank them for their statements.

On behalf of Chad, I would like to offer to President Nikolić and the Government and people of Serbia our sincerest condolences following the flooding that has taken so many lives and caused considerable material destruction.

Chad welcomes the ongoing, active participation of Serbia and Kosovo in the European Union-facilitated dialogue and that encouraging progress has been made in the implementation of the First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations of 19 April 2013. I commend the parties for pursuing the dialogue and for the progress that has been achieved. We welcome the integration of 284 former officials of the Serbian Ministry of the Interior into the Kosovo police. We urge the parties to redouble their efforts to establish the future association/community of Serbian municipalities in Kosovo. We welcome the measures that have been taken to establish the new municipal community safety councils in northern Kosovo following the 2013 elections.

We encourage the draft bill on general elections and call upon the authorities to work to ensure the integration and inclusion of everyone, particularly the Serbian population of Kosovo, as well as the other minority communities. The restoration of mutual trust among the communities will be a yardstick for the success of the ongoing talks. With regard to the initiative to transform the Kosovo Security Force into the Kosovo armed forces, all necessary precautions should be taken to study all aspects of the question, without excluding the possibility for Kosovo to create its own defence and security forces in the long term.

On the justice front, we congratulate the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo for its work under the authority the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) in the overall framework of resolution 1244 (1999). We welcome the decision to renew its mandate. We particularly welcome the agreement on the inclusion of Serbian parallel judicial institutions into the Kosovo system and the strengthening of the rule of law throughout Kosovo, as evidenced in several prosecutions and judgements that have been delivered in the area of organized crime and corruption. We also welcome the initiative of the Kosovo Government to create a special tribunal to consider war crimes. We welcome the agreement on the integration of Serbian parallel judicial institutions into the Kosovo legal system. We hope that a final agreement will be concluded under the European Union-promoted talks.

We note with satisfaction that with respect to security, the situation in Kosovo is stable, despite continued acts of theft, arson, attacks on property, and vandalism and desecration of cemeteries. Chad condemns such acts, which incite violence and hatred. We welcome the efforts of UNMIK to facilitate communication between the Kosovo authorities and INTERPOL and to establish a strategic interinstitutional cooperation plan to fight organized crime and corruption with the nomination of an anti-corruption national coordinator.

We welcome and encourage the Working Group on Missing Persons, which enjoys the participation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, UNMIK and national and local authorities, although 1,712 persons remain missing since the end of the war in Kosovo. We also commend the Kosovo Government for approving a strategy on communities and the return of displaced persons for 2014-2018, guaranteeing all their necessary rights.

Finally, Chad encourages the entire international community, and the Security Council in particular, to support the normalization of relations between Belgrade and Pristina through the European Union-facilitated dialogue. The resulting progress should inspire UNMIK

to meet expectations and better prepare in terms of facing future challenges.

Mr. Barros Melet (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation thanks Mr. Farid Zarif for his briefing on the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (S/2014/305). We also welcome His Excellency Mr. Tomislav Nikolić, President of the Republic of Serbia, and Ms. Atifete Jahjaga. We begin with a message of support to the countries of the Balkans that have been affected by the recent floods and welcome the solidarity among countries that were parties to the conflict that devastated the former-Yugoslavia 20 years ago.

Today, the Security Council is meeting for the fourth time since the signing of the First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations of 19 April 2013. We value the important progress achieved in its implementation. In particular, we highlight the agreement among the parties on the outstanding technical issues regarding the integration of Serbian parallel judicial institutions into the legal framework of Kosovo. Moreover, the active participation of Belgrade and Pristina in the dialogue facilitated by the European Union is essential to achieving their common objective of improving their cooperation with the Union's institutions. In that context, we commend Serbia's official launch of talks in Brussels on 21 January with a view to acceding to the European Union.

My country stresses the role of regional organizations in peacebuilding efforts and in re-establishing the rule of law. In that context, we call special attention to the efforts on the ground of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union Rule of Law Mission and to their contribution in restoring the rule of law and maintaining security in Kosovo. We recognize the role played by the European Union in bringing the parties closer together, which culminated in the First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations of 19 April 2013.

We remain concerned about the complex situation of displaced persons in Kosovo. Chile highlights the assistance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in resolving the problem. While local authorities have shown tolerance in allowing returns, efforts should be redoubled to avoid any hint of discrimination, particularly against minority populations. We also reiterate the importance of the ongoing implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) at all levels so as to guarantee the participation of women in decision-making and the due consideration of their needs.

We stress the central role of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) in promoting peace and security in the area of human rights, which is a priority in fostering reconciliation among the communities. Only in an atmosphere of respect and adequate protection for fundamental human rights will it be possible to hope for national reconciliation and a future life in peace.

Despite the progress made in the political dialogue, we are concerned about certain cases in which the interim administration of Kosovo has acted contrary to the conditions agreed and defined under resolution 1244 (1999) for the status of Kosovo. That is why we express reservations with respect to the plan to transform the Kosovo Security Force into the Kosovo armed forces. We also call upon the provisional authorities of Kosovo to refrain from preventing Serbian authorities from entering the territory, in order to avoid any additional conflict.

Experience in other conflict situations has shown that reconciliation processes must be based on truth and justice. In that respect, we highlight the progress made by the parties in identifying missing persons. Especially relevant in that respect is the work carried out by the authorities of Serbia and Kosovo through the Working Group on Missing Persons, with the help of UNMIK. We must move forward in the search for truth and the whereabouts of every one of the missing.

We have amply demonstrated the importance of justice in peacebuilding efforts and the process of national reconciliation. We underscore the work carried out by EULEX in transitional matters and in strengthening the rule of law. In conclusion, we reaffirm the importance of resolution 1244 (1999) as a guiding document for Kosovo to promote reconciliation, stability and prosperous communities.

Mr. Wang Min (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo, Mr. Farid Zarif, for his briefing. I welcome the presence of the President of Serbia, His Excellency Mr. Tomislav Nikolić, in today's meeting and his statement. I also listened carefully to the statement made by Ms. Atifete Jahjaga.

The recent severe flooding in Serbia resulted in significant loss of life and property. China expresses condolences to the victims. Our sympathy goes out to the bereaved families and to the injured. China shall do all it can to provide support and assistance based on Serbia's needs.

China respects Serbia's sovereignty and territorial integrity and understands the legitimate concerns over the issue of Kosovo. China believes that the best solution to the Kosovo issue lies in reaching agreements acceptable to all parties through dialogue and negotiation, within the framework of relevant Council resolutions and in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

At present, the overall situation in Kosovo is calm. The two parties to the Kosovo issue are pursuing the dialogue, which has yielded some positive results that China welcomes. We encourage both parties to continue their dialogue and negotiation, overcome difficulties and challenges, actively implement the agreements previously reached, effectively protect the legitimate interests of all ethnic groups, and resolve the problem of the return of internally displaced persons so that all people will be able to collectively benefit from peace and development and build a better life.

Resolving the Kosovo issue in a proper way and building a Kosovo where all ethnic communities live harmoniously plays a part in the peace and stability of the Balkans and the rest of Europe. That is also a common goal of the international community. China encourages the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to continue to implement the Security Council's mandate under the leadership of Special Representative Zarif. It is China's hope that the international presence — including UNMIK, the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo and the Kosovo Force — will strengthen coordination and cooperation in accordance with their respective mandates to continue to contribute to the peace, stability and development of Kosovo.

Mrs. DiCarlo (United States of America): I thank Special Representative Zarif for his briefing. I would like to welcome President Jahjaga and President Nikolić to their first time before the Council, and thank them both for their statements.

I would like to express our deep condolences to all those in Serbia, as well as in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, who have suffered as a result of the devastating floods. We stand with them as they begin to recover and rebuild.

The United States commends both Serbia and Kosovo for their continued dedication to the European Union-facilitated Kosovo-Serbia dialogue and the implementation of the First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations of 19 April 2013. Both Governments have made difficult decisions that are critical to realizing a more stable, peaceful and prosperous region. We would in particular like to recognize the efforts of President Jahjaga, the first and only female head of State in the Western Balkans, to promote inclusivity in Kosovo. We also thank the new Government in Serbia for its renewed commitment to continuing the normalization process, in line with Kosovo's legal and institutional framework and in accordance with the Agreement.

I would like to raise three points today: Kosovo's upcoming parliamentary elections, the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX), and Kosovo's strategic security review.

We welcome President Jahjaga's announcement that parliamentary elections will be held on 8 June. The 2013 municipal elections demonstrated Kosovo's capacity to meet international electoral standards, and it will be important for Kosovo's leaders to show the political will to do the same during this pre- and post-election period. We were pleased to hear President Jahjaga's assurances in this regard. Such open and fair political processes help Kosovo cement its place in Europe.

The United States commends the Kosovo Government and the Kosovo Assembly for their approval of the exchange of letters on the EULEX transition and the extension of its mandate, and on their support for establishing a special court to hear potential cases of the Special Investigative Task Force. We also thank the European Union for its continued role in Kosovo. The letters set out a new two-year EULEX mandate, taking into account Kosovo's progress since 2008, and detailed guidelines to ensure creation of an internationally credible judicial structure and process for any trials that may result from the work of the Task Force.

The strong vote by the Assembly underscored Kosovo's commitment to justice and the rule of law. Following elections next month, we look forward to the new Assembly's prompt consideration of related

implementing legislation. It is in our common interest to resolve the 2010 Council of Europe report allegations once and for all, to strengthen Kosovo's international credibility and to advance its European aspirations.

Finally, I would like to comment on Kosovo's strategic security sector review, which was facilitated by a team of United States advisors, to evaluate Kosovo's legitimate security needs. The final report released in March outlined a responsible plan to gradually develop, over a period of years, a limited territorial self-defence capacity, in accordance with Euro-Atlantic norms and built on the existing multi-ethnic Kosovo Security Force. This process has been conducted in a transparent and professional manner over the past two years.

In its facilitation role, the United States engaged the Government of Serbia on this issue on several occasions, and the Kosovo Government has briefed regional partners and NATO members on the review's recommendations to transfer the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) to the Kosovo armed forces, in keeping with resolution 1244 (1999). We are confident that with the involvement of NATO and regional partners, we can build trust between the two sides and ensure that the arrangements will strengthen the security and stability of the region. In this vein, we welcomed the written assurances of the Kosovo Government to NATO that reaffirm its earlier commitment, made in conjunction with the April 2013 Agreement, that the KSF and its successor would undertake no mission in the north without the prior concurrence of the Kosovo Force. Further, as a member of NATO, the United States notes that the Alliance's commitment to Kosovo remains unchanged.

We are moving towards the day when Kosovo and Serbia will be not only good neighbours, but partners in the European Union and Euro-Atlantic institutions. Kosovo has made great progress in consolidating its democracies since its declaration of independence. Over one half of United Nations Member States, including nine members of the Council, now recognize Kosovo as a sovereign and independent State. For the sake of greater stability in the region, we urge those States that have not recognized Kosovo to do so. We hope that the leaderships in Belgrade and Pristina will continue their positive momentum as they work to establish peaceful and secure environment that will allow their citizens to flourish. They will have full support of the United States in this regard.

Ms. Lucas (Luxembourg) (*spoke in French*): I, too, would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, Mr. Farid Zarif, for his briefing. I welcome the President of Kosovo, Her Excellency Ms. Atifete Jahjaga, and the President of Serbia, His Excellency Mr. Tomislav Nikolić.

At the outset, I would like to express Luxembourg's solidarity with and compassion for the victims of the floods in the Western Balkans. Our thoughts are with all those affected by the disaster.

During the period covered by the most recent report of the Secretary-General (S/2014/305), elections were held in Kosovo and Serbia. Despite the relative slowing in the pace of implementation of the agreements reached in the dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina, facilitated by the European Union, important progress has been made since the beginning of the year. Discussions on the organization and scope of the judicial institutions in northern Kosovo have made good progress and will, we hope, be concluded shortly. The integration of police officers into Kosovo's police continued. The partial elections to elect the mayors of Mitrovica North took place without incident, and all the mayors were sworn in.

The Serb Government elected following the 16 March parliamentary elections has demonstrated its intention to pursue the European integration process, and we welcome that fact. That process requires a normalization of relations with Kosovo. Kosovars, for their part, will have a chance to make their voices heard at the polls on 8 June. We welcome the European Union's launching, on 20 May, of an electoral observer mission, which is working in close cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The quality of the electoral process in Kosovo will be important in gauging the young country's maturity, and we hope that the positive developments that began with the municipal elections in November 2013 will continue. We also encourage all Serbs in Kosovo to exercise that democratic right, which is also their duty as citizens.

Once the new Government of Kosovo is in place, the normalization process will be able to resume with renewed momentum. The implementation of the agreements reached thus far should continue. I would highlight in particular the establishment of an

association of Serb municipalities in Kosovo, which is at the heart of the historic agreement of 19 April 2013.

The pursuit of reforms aimed at guaranteeing the rule of law is crucial to Kosovo's European integration. It is therefore commendable that, on 23 April, Kosovo's parliament approved an exchange of letters between the President of Kosovo and the High Representative of the European Union, Catherine Ashton, with a view to extending the mandate of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) to 15 June 2016.

Significant progress has been made since the deployment of EULEX in 2008. While adapting its work to promote enhanced responsibility for the Kosovars, EULEX will continue to play a key role in three areas: support to the Kosovar authorities to strengthen their institutions, the fight against organized crime and corruption, and bringing to justice perpetrators of war crimes and the most serious crimes, including through investigating the allegations contained in the report on inhumane treatment and human organ trafficking in Kosovo. We welcome the progress achieved by the Special Investigative Task Force and the preparations under way aimed at establishing a special tribunal to try those allegedly involved.

Luxembourg attaches particular importance to the fate of the 1,712 people missing since the end of the conflict in Kosovo. The exhumation work in the Rudnica quarry must continue with support from international partners and in the presence of Kosovar authorities in order for the victims' families to learn the fate of their loved ones.

We recognize the efforts by the Government of Kosovo to increase the rate of voluntary returns and promote the reintegration of those displaced. The strategy for communities and for returns of displaced persons for 2014-2018 in Kosovo is a step in the right direction. We welcome President Jahjaga's remarks reaffirming Kosovo's determination to eliminate the obstacles to the return of displaced persons, including Serbs.

For more than a year now, Serbia and Kosovo have been resolutely committed, under the auspices of the European Union, to the normalization their relations. The determination of their leaders has allowed the two countries to take crucial steps. Serbia began negotiations on joining the European Union on 21 January, and Kosovo concluded on 2 May its negotiations with the European Commission with a view to reaching in the coming months a Stabilization and Association Agreement between the European Union and Kosovo.

These positive developments should encourage Belgrade and Pristina to make irreversible progress on the path of reform and in the normalization of their relations. We are confident that the leaders and citizens of the two countries will show the commitment and courage necessary to realize their European future. As a faithful partner of solidarity of Serbia and of Kosovo, Luxembourg will spare no effort in supporting them in their endeavours.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of the Republic of Korea.

My delegation would like to thank Special Representative Farid Zarif for his briefing. We warmly welcome President Nikolić and President Jahjaga to the Council and thank them for their statements today. I would also like to express our deep sympathy and condolences to those affected by the recent floods in Serbia and other countries in the Balkans, and wish them a rapid recovery.

A year after the signing of the historic 19 April agreement between Belgrade and Pristina, there has been significant progress on their path towards the normalization of relations. Building on such hard-won gains, we look to Serbia and Kosovo to continue to engage constructively in the European Union-facilitated dialogue with a view to resolving the remaining issues expeditiously, including the establishment of the association/community of Serb municipalities.

While we commend such accomplishments, we remain concerned over violent incidents in northern Kosovo, such as the recent attacks on Kosovo Police and the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX), as well as the protests against their law enforcement activities. We believe that such incidents illustrate the need to strengthen the credibility of the justice system. In this regard, we stress the importance of the work of EULEX in consolidating the rule of law in Kosovo's institutions. We encourage leaders in the north, as well as in Belgrade and Pristina, to cooperate constructively with EULEX.

Lastly, we encourage the Kosovo authorities to promote the protection of minorities. In particular, further emphasis should be given to facilitating the safe and voluntary return of internally displaced persons. The strategy for the reintegration of repatriated person for 2014-2018 is a positive development in this regard.

We once again commend the entire staff of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, EULEX and other international partners for their tireless efforts for the continued peace and stability of Kosovo.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

His Excellency President Nikolić has requested to take the floor to make a further statement.

President Nikolić (*spoke in Serbian; English interpretation provided by the delegation*): I do not intend to make any comments on the statements by the Council members; they reflect the positions of their Governments. By commenting, I would perhaps put the citizens of my country at odds with the positions taken by some countries just because I do not agree with some Council members. I would simply ask members, when thinking about this problem, to think as if it happened in their own country. I wish that such a situation never occurs in other countries.

I wanted to address the Council again to thank members for their condolences and compassion towards the citizens of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia who have suffered due to the terrible flooding. Without international help, they will face great difficulties in alleviating the consequences. There is life beyond politics, outside of these walls, but I know that we will manage to live with the consequences with the help of our friends.

The President: Ms. Jahjaga has requested to take the floor to make a further statement.

Ms. Jahjaga: In reference to the issue of the incidents on the property of the Serbian Orthodox Church as raised here by previous speakers, allow me to present our position. I have strongly and publicly condemned the recent incidents against the Serbian Orthodox Church in Kosovo, in particular the latest incident of graffiti on the gates of the Dečani monastery, which I recently had the pleasure to visit. Kosovo has a long tradition of interreligious tolerance and a history of preservation of our common cultural heritage. These acts go against the spirit of what we are trying to build in Kosovo. Any attempt to desecrate such objects of cult is totally unacceptable.

I have asked the authorities to swiftly bring to justice the perpetrators of such acts, and the authorities are dealing with these incidents. In the particular instance of the Dečani monastery, the police have opened a case file on that matter. No church, mosque or other place of worship will be destroyed in Kosovo. We have a long tradition of interfaith tolerance, and we will preserve it.

In reference to the issue of Syria as raised in the meeting, the problem of foreign fighters who have been recruited or who have joined the war in Syria has posed a challenge for all countries around the world. Unfortunately, the Republic of Kosovo is not immune to this problem either. But we have taken bold steps to curb this threat, and I want to assure the Council that we are confronting this matter effectively. Our approach has included legal and security measures, as well as outreach to the Kosovo public. Kosovo's leadership is united and vocal in condemning this phenomenon and discouraging our citizens from joining the fight in Syria. Our religious communities have also engaged in raising awareness about the negative implications that this has for Kosovo and the region. Kosovo's Government has drafted and approved a law that will punish, with 15 years' imprisonment, those who join this fight. We will revoke the citizenship of anyone joining the Syrian war. Our security mechanisms are working around the clock to address this challenge, and they have successfully conducted operations to prevent this problem. According to our estimates, we are talking about a fringe group that has joined the war in Syria. The absolute majority of Kosovo's citizens are determined in our fight against this negative phenomenon. Kosovo will not be a safe haven or a transit route for these elements, and we will continue to work with our partners and international security organizations to further address this matter.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7184

Security Council

Sixty-ninth year

Provisional

7184th meeting
Wednesday, 28 May 2014, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Oh Joon/Ms. Paik Ji-ah	(Republic of Korea)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Oyarzábal
	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Bertoux
	Jordan	Mr. Omaish
	Lithuania	Ms. Murmokaitė
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Nigeria	Mr. Laro
	Russian Federation	Mr. Zagaynov
	Rwanda	Mr. Nduhungirehe
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Tatham
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

Briefings by Chairmen of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Briefings by Chairmen of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Belgium, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Pakistan and the Syrian Arab Republic to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Thomas Mayr-Harting, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

At the outset, Ambassador Raimonda Murmokaitė will make a joint statement on behalf of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004). Following the joint statement, the Council will hear briefings by the Chairs of those three Committees.

I now give the floor to Her Excellency Ms. Raimonda Murmokaitė, Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning Counter-Terrorism.

Ms. Murmokaitė (Lithuania): On behalf of the Chairs of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning Counter-Terrorism; the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), on the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; and the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, I have the honour to brief the Council on the continuing cooperation among the three Committees and their respective expert groups.

I would like to address three key areas of such cooperation: information sharing and joint meetings, outreach activities and country visits, and participation in a broader counter-terrorism framework.

The three Committees and their respective expert groups continued the practice of sharing relevant information and of meeting, where appropriate, in order to discuss common issues, coordinate actions and exchange information on particular issues. For instance, the 1540 Committee's Group of Experts and the 1267 Committee's Monitoring Team held regular informal exchanges concerning new challenges, such as the implications of scientific and technological developments in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons in relation to non-State actors, including terrorists. The 1540 Committee's Group of Experts and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) shared experiences on compiling effective implementation practices in accordance with their respective mandates. In addition, the members of the expert groups participated in training sessions, such as on the relationship between the Internet and communication technologies and terrorism, organized by CTED in December 2013.

The Committees also continued to extend invitations to each other and their expert groups when arranging thematic briefings and presentations, including those by visiting officials from international and regional organizations. One such briefing, which included the participation of the Secretary-General of the World Customs Organization, was organized by the 1540 Committee in February. Earlier this month, the 1267 Monitoring Team and CTED made a joint presentation to the 1373 Committee members on kidnapping for ransom.

All three expert groups continued to coordinate their outreach activities and country visits on a regular basis. Where appropriate, the three groups consulted one another when planning country visits and other missions in order to facilitate the participation of their respective experts and to ensure a consistent and coherent approach. A noteworthy example of such cooperation is this week's comprehensive assessment visit to Mongolia, conducted by CTED on behalf of the 1373 Committee, and joined by the 1540 Committee Group of Experts and the 1267 Monitoring Team.

As regards broader regional perspectives, members of the 1267 Monitoring Team also participated in CTED-facilitated workshops in South-East Asia and South Asia in December and in West Africa in April, and both expert groups jointly facilitated a workshop for States members of the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money-Laundering Group in April.

Another step forward in regional engagement was marked by the establishment, pursuant to resolution

2129 (2013), of a shared focal point for the Caribbean region to work on issues relevant to the three Committees and their respective groups of experts. It is hosted by the Caribbean Community and funded by the Government of Australia and deals with requests from Member States of the region to facilitate the delivery of integrated technical assistance that addresses both counter-terrorism measures and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The initiative may also be considered a pilot project that may lead, where appropriate, to the shared use of focal points in other regions.

The expert groups continued to work closely with one another within the framework of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), notably its various thematic working groups, and contributed to the preparation of the fourth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In addition, members of the 1267 Monitoring Team and CTED were actively involved in the launch of the CTITF global experts meeting on capacity-building for terrorist designations and asset-freezing, held this month.

The expert groups also continued to coordinate among themselves during participation in the work of other entities and forums dealing with counter-terrorism, such as the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, regarding design, facilitation and pursuit of technical assistance programmes and projects on a thematic and regional basis; the Financial Action Task Force, regarding the implementation of counter-terrorist financing measures, including Security Council sanctions; and the Global Counterterrorism Forum, on areas within their respective mandates.

The work of the three Committees and their expert groups has been intensified, but continues to present opportunities for further synergies and for strengthening the delivery of results. The Committees and their expert groups will continue to explore ways to further strengthen their coordination and cooperation while maintaining respect for the mandates of their respective Committees and the independence of the respective expert groups.

That concludes my joint statement to the Security Council.

Allow me now to turn to a statement that I would like to make on behalf of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and to give an overview of developments in the work of the Committee and its Executive Directorate.

As members of the Council are all aware, resolution 2129 (2013) renewed CTED's mandate until 31 December 2017 and provided policy direction for the work of the Committee and CTED to assist Member States to achieve full implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). In that context, I would like to address some of the key aspects pertaining to the realization of that overarching goal.

National and regional assessments and follow-up, including efforts to ensure that Member States are provided with timely and appropriate capacity-building assistance, continue to be the central focus of the work of the Committee and CTED. That work has been strengthened over recent months by the introduction of new assessment tools and an increased focus on regional engagement and targeted follow-up country visits. The new tools — namely, the overview of implementation assessment and the detailed implementation survey — were designed to provide a more detailed assessment of national, regional and global challenges, shortfalls and good practices, as well as to help ensure more targeted and effective counter-terrorism capacity-building. Thus far, the Committee has assessed the implementation efforts of 27 Member States using the new assessment tools.

In order to help the Committee provide ongoing policy guidance on capacity-building, CTED has continued to provide regular updates on progress on Member States' implementation efforts in specific regions, as well as on specific terrorism-related issues, trends and developments. It has also continued to submit special reports on specific themes, events or situations that may have implications for capacity-building initiatives around the world.

In addition, the Chair of the Committee, with the assistance of CTED, held an open briefing in April — with the participation of the Secretary-General of INTERPOL, the Secretary-General of the International Civil Aviation Organization and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) — on preventing the misuse by terrorists of travel documents and on terrorism prevention activities. The CTED's country assessment visits conducted on the Committee's behalf continued to serve as a platform for direct interaction with Member States and as the foundation for facilitating the delivery of capacity-building assistance. The Committee approved a list of comprehensive, focused and follow-up visits to 40 Member States — in addition to 15

previously approved visits — for the period running from 2014 to 2017.

The assessment process also includes in-depth and tailored regional dialogue with counter-terrorism practitioners conducted in focus group environments and aimed at achieving a more complete understanding of their working level needs, while also encouraging practical approaches to capacity-building and promoting regional cooperation. In that regard, for example, CTED launched in May the first annual meeting of professional networks of border police, customs and intelligence agencies to strengthen border control cooperation in the fight against terrorism in the Sahel and the Maghreb.

Effective delivery of technical assistance and training often requires a sustained regional dialogue conducted over a number of years. That model has been successfully tested in South Asia, where it has resulted in the development of a platform that generates specific independent spin-off capacity-building deliverables developed through dialogue and delivered by donors and providers. In April, for example, CTED convened the eighth regional workshop for judges, prosecutors and police officers in South Asia, which examined the work of training academies in the region.

Continuing the practice of convening regular regional and thematic meetings and workshops helps to create an environment that best serves the interests of potential recipient States, as well as the community of donors and technical assistance providers and to strengthen the coordination of activities and the identification of national and regional priorities. Member States and regional and subregional organizations may also request CTED to advise them on formulating national and regional counter-terrorism strategies.

In that regard, CTED, acting in cooperation with the CTITF and relevant regional organizations, continued to assist Member States in Central Africa in their development of a regional integrated strategy on counter-terrorism and the non-proliferation of small arms and light weapons. In January and April, two regional workshops were held to draft the strategy's border control and law enforcement-related elements. Another example of regional engagement is CTED's continued participation in the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel and its implementation, working closely with other United Nations offices at Headquarters and on the ground, including the Office of the Special Envoy for the Sahel.

The joint statement indicated heretofore how close collaboration of the Counter-Terrorism Committee with the 1267 and 1540 Committees, as well of CTED with the respective expert groups, continued to serve as a platform for raising awareness, encouraging implementation of related mandates and joint technical assistance projects, where appropriate. That process has been reinforced in the Committee's dialogue with Member States, many of which have emphasized the need for the delivery of capacity-building that addresses both counter-terrorism measures and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The Committee and CTED continue to promote the effective implementation of resolution 1624 (2005), which focuses on the threats posed by terrorist incitement and the need to take effective countermeasures, which may include legal sanctions, as well as increased emphasis on dialogue and understanding.

Measures taken by Member States to counter incitement and violent extremism have been intensively discussed during the country visits and in other settings. In that regard, this month CTED facilitated the organization in Kenya of a national workshop on the effective implementation of resolution 1624 (2005). CTED also continued to gather examples of good practices related both to legislation and other aspects of counter-incitement measures, such as educational programmes promoting peace, dialogue and understanding among civilizations.

In December 2013, senior prosecutors from around the world gathered in Tunis to discuss the growing phenomenon of individual radicalization, which results in terrorists acting alone or in small cells. That event, facilitated by CTED, was also attended by leading academics and representatives of international and regional organizations. The participants tested strategic assumptions and compared legal and operational tools to address that phenomenon, which remains little documented and ill defined.

Even though the terrorist threat has become more diffuse, a strong and fair criminal justice system remains central to a comprehensive counter-terrorism approach. CTED continues to engage with Member States on ways to develop tailored and more effective judicial responses to emerging trends. As part of the Committee's efforts to support States' efforts to bring

terrorists to justice, CTED and UNODC have launched a joint global initiative to strengthen the capacities of national investigative, prosecutorial and judicial authorities. This multi-year initiative will address the challenges involved in effectively investigating and prosecuting terrorism cases while respecting human rights and the rule of law.

The Committee and CTED continued to pay close attention to relevant human rights and rule-of-law issues, consistent with the Committee's policy guidance in that area. Human rights issues arise in virtually all areas of counter-terrorism, and the Committee and CTED remain committed to promoting the principle that all counter-terrorism measures must comply with Member States' obligations under international law, including international human rights law, as a matter of both legal obligation and effectiveness of the implementation of such measures.

Over the coming months, the Committee will continue to fulfil the mandates conferred by the Security Council, including through the preparation of a special meeting on the issue of kidnapping for ransom, in accordance with resolution 2133 (2014); continued Committee visits to Member States and stocktaking of their implementation efforts; and further interaction with civil society, the private sector and academic institutions. The Committee and CTED will also continue to arrange open briefings on regional and thematic counter-terrorism issues for the wider United Nations membership, with a view to further enhancing transparency and strengthening cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

The President: I thank Ambassador Murmokaitė for her briefing.

I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).

I am pleased to report to the Council on the progress made in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) since my last briefing in November 2013 (see S/PV.7071).

At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation for the support given by the members of the Security Council and the Secretariat to the work of the 1540 Committee, in particular the Security Council open debate held on 7 May (see S/PV.7169), on the topic "Commemorating the tenth anniversary of resolution 1540 (2004) and looking ahead", which was held successfully. More than 60 Member States expressed their strong commitment to the implementation of the resolution. As encapsulated in presidential statement S/PRST/2014/7, adopted at that meeting and echoed by many, the 1540 Committee was recommended to consider developing a strategy towards the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). In the same vein, the Committee will continue to enhance the ongoing cooperation among relevant Committees as necessary, as well as to coordinate its non-proliferation work with other international, regional and subregional organizations.

On the promotion of a universal reporting, the Committee received one additional initial report over the past six months, bringing the number of non-reporting States down to 21. With the support of the Group of Experts and the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), three special meetings are being held to engage and assist the remaining Member States. By the end of June, we will have engaged 19 out of the 21 non-reporting States.

Since the last joint briefing, the 1540 Committee and its experts made two country visits, to Niger and Bangladesh at their invitations, and also participated in 46 outreach events worldwide. They provided excellent opportunities to further the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and facilitate assistance to support capacity-building in many States. The Committee has also embarked on the compilation of effective practices. I take this opportunity to thank all those Member States and international, regional and subregional organizations for submitting useful information in that regard. Facilitating matchmaking between assistance requests and offers also remains a priority for the Committee. We will review practical recommendations for strengthening our assistance mechanism in the coming weeks. I look forward to reporting that outcome to the Council at the next briefing in November.

Since the last joint briefing on 27 November 2013, we also received new formal notifications of 15 points of contact. To date, the Committee has been advised of points of contact for 79 States and 12 international and regional organizations. A special meeting was held in early April in Vienna, organized by UNODA and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Points of contact from States, as well as from international organizations, were brought together to share experiences. That is an encouraging step in our

efforts to move towards the development of a living network of points of contact.

I would like to conclude by reiterating the Chair's commitment towards achieving universal and full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). As we celebrate the tenth anniversary of that seminal resolution, there is a substantial agenda before us. Under the guidance of the thirteenth programme of work, which was submitted to the Council last week, the 1540 Committee will continue to actively cooperate with all stakeholders to address all aspects of the resolution in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors. The collaboration between the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) and their experts is crucial in that regard, and I look forward to sustained cooperation in the future.

I resume my function as President of the Council.

I give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Gary Quinlan, Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities.

Mr. Quinlan (Australia): In my last briefing to the Council, I spoke of Al-Qaida's structural changes, noting that the movement no longer follows a centralized command structure. I also emphasized that the threat to international peace and security posed by Al-Qaida emanates from a range of increasingly heterogeneous groups and affiliates. In today's briefing, I will focus on those developments in the threat posed by Al-Qaida and its affiliates and outline the steps taken by the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities to ensure that the Al-Qaida sanctions regime remains an effective response to that threat.

The Committee seeks to act quickly and strategically to ensure that the sanctions imposed support national and regional responses to the evolving Al-Qaida inspired threat. That approach encourages Member States from all regions to take ownership of the listing process. It was evident last week when the Committee approved the addition of Boko Haram to its list of individuals and entities subject to the targeted financial sanctions and the arms embargo set out in paragraph 1 of resolution 2083 (2012). As a result of the new listing, any individual or entity that provides financial or material support to Boko Haram, including the provision of arms or recruits, is eligible to be added to the Al-Qaida sanctions list and subject to the sanctions measures.

The fifteenth report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team (S/2014/41) details the ways in which Al-Qaida and its affiliates take advantage of local conflicts or situations of limited State control. When a political situation shifts and opportunities to bolster Al-Qaida's agenda arise, the organization and its affiliates have become adept at quickly seizing such opportunities to regroup and strengthen. Similarly, the restoration of political stability and security in one region does not necessarily serve to weaken the threat posed by Al-Qaida and its affiliates. It may simply mean that terrorists find safe havens and opportunities elsewhere. The shift in the geographical focus of Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) in particular demonstrates such adaptability. AQIM militants have moved away from Mali and Algeria to regroup in southern Libya. That combined trend of localization and globalization demonstrates the need for the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee to maintain a global approach, while at the same time constantly assessing and reassessing the threat.

Al-Qaida has gained dexterity not only geographically but also structurally. In particular, the trend towards an ever-increasing recruitment of foreign fighters has given Al-Qaida and its affiliates a more global reach in a number of theatres of operation. That strategy has been employed with particular rigour with respect to Syria. The Monitoring Team's fifteenth report raises the specific issue of large numbers of Al-Qaida-affiliated foreign fighters associating with the Jabhat-al-Nusra organization. As thousands of foreign fighters engage in conflict alongside local militants, ties that the Monitoring Team predicts could lead to new pan-Arab and pan-European networks of extremists are established. Furthermore, the return of those battle-hardened foreign fighters to their countries of origin or to third countries with new ideas and skills is a cause for concern. Member States in North Africa, the Middle East and Europe are already grappling with the reality of returning fighters with experience of working with Al-Qaida affiliates. For those reasons, the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee will continue to maintain a global approach to the threat.

In generational terms, Al-Qaida is getting younger, with its leaders increasingly shaped by the experience of the current social dynamics rather than the experiences of the 1990s. Leadership positions within Al-Qaida are being taken up by men in their late 30s and 40s. With that generational shift come new philosophical perspectives and outreach techniques. For instance, among the new generation of Boko Haram militants in northern Nigeria, a younger perspective has resulted in an increased propensity for violence and less tolerance for the local religious leadership. With Al-Qaida affiliates in Africa and Asia, mid-level commanders bring technological knowledge and a focus on innovative attack planning. Younger leaders are also more adept at connecting with the next generation of recruits, in particular through a sophisticated use of social media.

While organizationally Al-Qaida is more splintered, the shift towards diverse and localized recruitment also means that it has become more durable. That trend is further amplified by the scope for domestic radicalization in a number of Member States, where violent Al-Qaida-inspired cells may generate themselves largely autonomously, influenced by Internet propaganda but disconnected from the Al-Qaida affiliate command structures.

The Committee remains dedicated to ensuring that the Al-Qaida sanctions regime itself is as effective as possible. The threat posed by Al-Qaida and its affiliates is characterized by the fluidity of its organizational structure and geographical reach. Maintaining a sanctions list that most effectively responds to the threat means identifying potential targets and promptly adding those names to the list. Conversely, it also means removing from the sanctions list the names of individuals and entities that are no longer affiliated with Al-Qaida. To do that in a global context, the Committee relies on the engagement of all Member States. Any Member State may at any time propose a name for listing or delisting under the Al-Qaida sanctions regime, and I encourage all Member States to consider doing so.

On 22 May, the coordinator of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team briefed the Committee on the current threat landscape. The Committee recognizes that sanctions will have the greatest impact if the individuals and entities targeted by the regime are those that currently have an influential role in or support, in particular financially, Al-Qaida and its affiliates. It is important for the Committee, as well as all Member States, to respond to the changing threat in the names that are proposed for listing and de-listing.

An important focus of the Committee is to improve implementation of the sanctions measures. In its fifteenth report, the Monitoring Team highlighted the implementation value for the travel ban of publishing biometric data on listed individuals. The Committee now seeks to collect that data from Member States both for existing entries on the list and when new names are proposed for listing. Similarly, the Committee has initiated a Council-wide engagement with the World Customs Organization to seek an amendment to the joint guidelines on advanced passenger information that it issues with the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Air Transport Association. The proposed amendment would raise awareness among national civil aviation authorities of the requirements and targets of Security Council travel bans.

In view of the growing use by Al Qaida-inspired terrorists of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), the Monitoring Team concluded that IEDs are Al-Qaida's weapon of choice and the principal cause of civilian casualties in attacks by Al-Qaida and its affiliates. More alarming still, Al-Qaida affiliates disseminate step-by-step guides to the manufacture of IEDs in a deliberate attempt to arm "lone-wolf" terrorists. The Monitoring Team has already engaged Member States, counter-IED specialists and those involved with private sector supply chains of components that may be used to construct IEDs. The Committee is now considering the best way forward.

The Committee is currently in the process of reviewing more than 150 entries on the Al-Qaida sanctions list. That is over half the total number. The names under review include those lacking the identifiers necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the sanctions measures, entries corresponding to reportedly deceased individuals and to entities that are reported or confirmed to have ceased to exist. The Committee also undertakes a review of those entries that have not been reviewed in three or more years. The responsiveness of Member States remains crucial to the successful conduct of those reviews. I should like to take this opportunity to thank those Member States that have actively participated in such review processes by providing detailed and updated information.

The Committee also continues to engage with the Ombudsperson on delisting requests. Such a process contributes to making the Al-Qaida sanctions list focused and effective.

The rapid evolution of the threat that Al-Qaida and its affiliates pose to international peace and security requires dynamic and timely action by the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee and by the broader United Nations membership. Ensuring the effectiveness of such a tool remains a shared undertaking. Member States have a dual opportunity in that regard. I encourage Member States to at once assess the threat posed by Al-Qaida and its affiliates and to actively contribute to making the sanctions list relevant. I also urge Member States to concentrate their efforts to fully implement the measures against listed individuals and entities within their jurisdiction. As always, the Committee and the Monitoring Team stand ready to support Member States in that crucial endeavour.

The President: I thank Ambassador Quinlan for his briefing.

I shall now give the floor to members of the Council.

Mr. Tatham (United Kingdom): I thank the Committee Chairs for their important briefings to the Council today.

Terrorism is regrettably an agile and evolving threat that requires us to be a step ahead and to anticipate developments. Since our last meeting on this subject (see S/PV.7071), the Council has taken further steps to address the threat of terrorism. In December, the Council adopted resolution 2129 (2013), directing the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate to implement its core mandate of assessing States' implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and to identify emerging issues, trends and developments.

One serious emerging trend is terrorists' kidnapping for ransom payments to finance their operations. That is a significant challenge for us as we seek to constrict terrorist financing, and it is a terrible threat to nationals of all countries. In January, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2133 (2014) to tackle this growing problem. The resolution sent a strong political signal and made clear the Security Council's commitment to addressing the upward trend of terrorist kidnappings and breaking the vicious cycle whereby ransom payments strengthen terrorist groups and then incentivize future incidents of kidnapping. The upcoming special meeting on kidnapping for ransom will help States to better understand that pressing issue and will provide an opportunity to discuss practical information, including prevention measures, to break the vicious cycle.

The nature and composition of Al-Qaida may have changed, but the threat it poses to nations across the world has not. Nearly 15 years after it was established, the Al-Qaida sanctions regime remains an essential tool for combatting terrorism. Boko Haram's abduction of the schoolgirls in Nigeria on 14 April and its campaign of violence and intimidation demonstrate the horrors that terrorist groups can inflict on innocent people. The United Kingdom was the first country to proscribe Boko Haram and strongly supported its addition to the 1267 Monitoring Team's list of groups subject to financial and armed sanctions. We co-sponsored Nigeria's proposal that the United Nations take action. The international community as a whole supports Nigeria's efforts to tackle terrorism. At the Paris summit on security in Nigeria, Nigeria's neighbours, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union all agreed to pursue sanctions against Boko Haram at the United Nations. We look forward to supporting further efforts at the United Nations in New York.

As we approach the mandate review next month, we must work to strengthen the implementation of the Al-Qaida sanctions regime and advance measures to ensure that processes are fair and clear so that sanctions are credible and robust. We must also encourage States to make use of the regime to take advantage of the global reach that United Nations sanctions offer. To effectively combat the threat of terrorism, we need that global reach and must also work together to anticipate and stifle terrorist activity.

Mr. President, I congratulate your delegation on the successful open debate on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction earlier this month (see S/PV.7169), which commemorated the tenth anniversary of resolution 1540 (2004), and on the accompanying presidential statement S/PRST/2014/7, adopted by the Council. That mandate remains as important today as when it was adopted in 2004, and we urge States, especially Council members, to ensure universal reporting on its implementation.

Mr. Barros Melet (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): Chile welcomes the initiative of convening a joint meeting on the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities; the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-

terrorism; and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

In regard to the Committee on Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, we thank Committee Chair Ambassador Gary Quinlan for his very informative briefing, as well as for the leadership and dynamic way in which he has led the Committee, which has contributed to combating the scourge of terrorism wherever it is found. We commend the work of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team for its assistance to the Committee, which provides us with a strategic vision of the key trends represented by Al-Qaida and its extensive network of affiliates.

Equally important is the role of the Office of the Ombudsperson. We thank Ms. Kimberly Prost for the independence and professionalism with which she has been carrying out her work. There is no doubt that it is thanks to the collective effort that the regime is becoming increasingly effective and that sanctions are being implemented in an increasingly more diligent way.

By the same token, we reaffirm the importance of the work of the Committee in maintaining and constantly reviewing the list of sanctions. That work is extremely important and represents the most rapid and effective way to implement the sanctions regime, taking into account the energy and versatility of that terrorist organization and the ease with which it recruits and incorporates new members in different parts of the world.

In that regard, we commend the speed and effectiveness with which, on 22 May, the terrorist group Boko Haram was added to the list of individuals and entities subject to financial sanctions and an arms embargo. We call on Member States to continue to work to improve those procedures, which underscore the authority and legitimacy of the measures imposed by the Council. In that context, we would like to highlight the importance of the revision of resolution 2083 (2012) this year.

My country supports the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee aimed at ensuring the full implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). We congratulate the Ambassador of Lithuania, Ms. Raimonda Murmokaitė, for the way in which she has conducted the work of the Committee since her appointment. We also thank Ambassador Mohammed Loulichki of Morocco for his work as Chair of that Committee until December 2013.

We also highlight the effective support work to the Committee carried out by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate under the leadership of Mr. Jean-Paul LaBorde. We believe that the most important work of the Committee and its Executive Directorate is the promotion of the capacity of States to apply and implement resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005) through effective international cooperation, technology transfer and the training of civil servants, inter alia, and through the unequivocal condemnation of the international community whenever a terrorist act is committed.

We commend the efforts of the Committee and the Executive Directorate to create and use new national and regional assessment tools to identify the gaps of the countries and regions and the best practices that help to ensure the implementation of the most appropriate measures in the fight against terrorism. We support interaction among the Committee, the Executive Directorate, States and regional and subregional organizations, which is essential to the successful implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). In that regard, my country is organizing a visit of the Committee next year. We recognize that the activities just described, as well as the periodic country visits made by the Executive Directorate, contribute to strengthening the capacity of the various national actors in this area.

Chile has high expectations for the special meeting mandated by resolution 2133 (2014), to be organized by the Committee and which will include the participation of Member States and relevant international and regional organizations. The meeting will consider measures to prevent terrorist groups from committing kidnappings and taking hostages in order to raise funds or obtain political concessions.

In regard to the work of the 1540 Committee, on 7 May we held an open debate to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004), which was a milestone to which Chile contributed when it held a seat as a non-permanent member of the Council. We value the resolution, which was the first to link the threat of the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons with non-State actors, thereby filling a void in the system of the maintenance of international peace and security.

Over those 10 years, the 1540 Committee has raised the awareness of the international community by providing assistance, facilitating cooperation and disseminating good practices. However, much work remains because today, as in 2004, the threat of non-State actors and terrorist groups persists. We value activities fostering exchange of information. For example, the recent visits to the Niger and Bangladesh were excellent opportunities to promote the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Promoting joint information presentations is highly relevant, as they will strengthen awareness-raising among State authorities and civil society and ensure the training of civil servants and specialized units through workshops and seminars.

It is our opinion that the Committee's work is headed in the right direction in taking up challenges such as the financing of weapons proliferation and support provided by non-State actors in the form of associated or dual-use materials. From the start, my country has endeavoured to ensure the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), a commitment that is in line with State policy. In that context, we reiterate our commitment to the aims and purposes of the resolution and again thank the Government of the Republic of Korea for its leadership.

Mr. DeLaurentis (United States of America): Six weeks after nearly 300 Nigerian girls were kidnapped by Boko Haram and less than one month after a series of deadly attacks wracked Sana'a, we are reminded that terrorism remains one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. Since we last met on the topic in November (see S/PV.7071), thousands of foreign terrorist fighters continue to support Al-Qaida and its affiliates, and groups such as Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb and Boko Haram continue to commit atrocities and instil fear in the Sahel. As the terrorist threat evolves, so too must our response. The need for a whole-of-United Nations approach to countering terrorism has never been greater. Only with a targeted, nimble and united approach can we respond appropriately to the ever-changing terrorist landscape.

The Security Council's three counter-terrorism Committees should focus on combating the growth of Al-Qaida and its ideology, building the counter-terrorism capacities of States and ensuring that terrorists do not have access to weapons of mass destruction. We are grateful to the Chairs of the Committees — Australia, Lithuania and the Republic of Korea — for their excellent work in promoting the implementation of the resolutions.

Fifteen years after the creation of the sanctions regime under resolution 1267 (1999), those sanctions remain one of the most effective tools to curb the financing and flow of arms to terrorists. When the Security Council reviews the Al-Qaida sanctions next month, we should assess their effectiveness and calibrate them to the evolving Al-Qaida threat. We see three particular areas that need the Council's undivided attention: kidnapping for ransom, the cross-border flow of terrorist fighters, and the threat posed by improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

To combat those trends, the Council must focus on more effective implementation of those measures. That can help to isolate and defund groups like Boko Haram and deter future attacks of kidnapping for ransom — an appalling practice that the Council rightly condemned earlier this year in resolution 2133 (2014). Effective implementation can also curb the flow of foreign fighters, not only to Syria but also to the Afghanistan-Pakistan region, Yemen, the Sahel, East Africa and elsewhere. To stop those flows, States should review United Nations sanctions lists prior to issuing visas and share information with international partners. Finally, effective implementation can encourage States to exercise greater vigilance to prevent terrorists from using IEDs — weapons that have killed more civilians than combatants. We encourage States to share information, establish partnerships and develop strategies to combat IEDs.

In addition to the 1267 sanctions, we must work together to bring greater strategic coherence to the broader counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations. As an important first step, we welcome the efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and Assistant Secretary-General Laborde and his team to return CTED to its origins of providing assessments of counter-terrorism capacity-building gaps. CTED can and should serve as a matchmaker, connecting assistance providers with those States most in need of help. We see a particular need for the United Nations to strengthen the criminal justice sector in a rule-of-law framework, as well as to enhance border security in countering violent extremism.

We welcome the important role of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) in building the counter-terrorism capacity of Member

States and the central role of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) in coordinating those efforts. We hope that CTITF and the UNCCT will continue to increase the strategic nature and impact of their policies, including by focusing on regions and countries with the biggest capacity gaps and through the use of monitoring and evaluation efforts. We encourage Member States to contribute to the UNCCT. We encourage all United Nations entities to continue to interact with the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum and to use its framework documents and good practices in areas such as countering violent extremism, criminal justice, kidnapping for ransom, supporting victims of terrorism and community-oriented policing.

We look forward to the creation, on 18 June, of the international institute on justice and the rule of law in Malta, which will help to strengthen criminal justice systems. We welcome the creation later this year of the global community engagement and resilience fund — the first global effort to harness the resources of the public and private sectors to support local, community-based projects on educational and vocational training, civic engagement, media and women's advocacy. We encourage States to support and contribute to this important fund.

We would like to thank the Republic of Korea for convening earlier this month an open debate on resolution 1540 (2004) (see S/PV.7169) — another pillar of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts. The Council's presidential statement S/PRST/2014/7, adopted at that meeting, can serve as useful guidance for the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) as it plans its future work, such as its interaction with civil society and industry.

The United States has most directly supported the work of the 1540 Committee through a $4.5 million contribution to the United Nations Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities. The contribution has helped to fund the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and 1540 Committee projects, such as the recent meetings in Gabon and South Africa for non-reporting States. We urge Member States to consider how they assist others in implementation resolution 1540 (2004), including by contributing to the Trust Fund.

To ensure the effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), we know what we need to do. Each State must identify its own vulnerabilities and gaps in implementation and develop a plan so that the next steps are prioritized. States that lack capacity should request help and those in a position to assist should do so.

Finally, everyone should be open to sharing useful information on a timely basis. States should place special emphasis on improving the design of national and global approaches to the problem of biosecurity. As reflected in the joint statement issued at the Nuclear Security Summit in March, States should also seek the full implementation of the nuclear security elements of resolution 1540 (2004) by 2016. By identifying such priorities, the Committee can use its resources more effectively and efficiently.

Mr. Laro (Nigeria): I thank the Chairs of the Security Council Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) for their briefings and commend them for their astute leadership.

Nigeria commends the Chairs for the continued cooperation among their Committees in the areas of information-sharing, joint meetings, outreach activities, country visits and participation in the broader counter-terrorism framework. That cooperation has allowed the Committees to share ideas on new challenges and share experiences on compiling effective implementation practices. The regular coordination by the three groups of experts of outreach activities, country visits and participation in the work of other entities dealing with counter-terrorism has allowed them to work together in a coherent and consistent manner. That is clearly a win-win situation for the three Committees, as it allows them to benefit from their relative strengths and competencies, thus improving their overall ability to achieve their different mandates. What really counts is the delivery of results, and we see merit in the Committees strengthening their coordination and cooperation with a view to improving their performance.

Turning to the issue of terrorism, I would like to state that Nigeria remains resolute in its determination to meet that challenge, which is a clear and present threat to our national security. It was in that context that, in March 2014, the federal Government launched a four-point plan aimed at deradicalization, reaffirmation of the national ethos, reorientation of the security services and economic revitalization of a part of the country where poverty is endemic in order to address terrorism at home. That plan, which is part of the national counter-terrorism strategy, is expected to boost the efforts by Nigeria and its partners to root out terrorism in the country.

Nigeria appreciates the cooperation and assistance of United Nations counter-terrorism entities, in particular the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, which has been engaged in Nigeria since 2006. That cooperation has led to the establishment of the office of a national counter-terrorism coordinator in Nigeria and the evolution of a proactive deradicalization effort. The contributions of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the criminal justice track in Nigeria are also significant. We acknowledge the role being played in the fight against terrorism by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) and the synergy evolving between the Centre and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

Capacity-building in the fight against terrorism has become even more imperative. Terrorists are using the Internet to advance their cause and are exploiting modern technology to plan and launch attacks. They have developed expertise in many areas, including command and control, logistics and mobility, as evidenced by the operations in Nigeria and other parts of the world. In that regard, we thank the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its generous contribution to the UNCCT. We urge other Member States to also contribute to funding the Centre in order to enhance its responsiveness to the capacity-building needs of Member States.

Nigeria appreciates the universality of the Al-Qaida sanctions regime, which is in place to serve Member States in the global fight against terrorism. It is our hope that the recent listing of Boko Haram will aid our counter-terrorism efforts. We remain committed to implementing the sanctions, resolute in assisting the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) deliver on its mandate and keen to render on-reserve support to the Office of the Ombudsperson, who strives hard to ensure fairness and transparency in the listing and delisting process.

We take this opportunity to acknowledge the support of friendly States in our fight against terrorism. We are determined to work with our neighbours to strengthen coordination of our counter-terrorism efforts.

I will now make a few remarks on nuclear non-proliferation. Nigeria recognizes the need for all States to continue to take effective measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery. In the interest of international peace and security, it is particularly crucial for us to ensure that non-State actors in particular are prevented from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. That underscores the importance of the work of the 1540 Committee. The decision of the 1540 Committee to strengthen its cooperation with other committees and with international, regional and subregional organizations, including in the compilation of effective practices, will enhance the attainment of its mandate.

That multidimensional approach also serves as a viable means of achieving the objective of resolution 1540 (2004). We welcome the steps being taken by the Committee to promote universal reporting under the resolution and encourage the planned collaboration between its Group of Experts and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs to engage with and assist Member States in the submission of their initial reports. The fight for non-proliferation can be greatly aided when requests for assistance are matched by offers. We therefore urge the Committee to continue to facilitate that form of matchmaking as it works to strengthen its assistance mechanism.

Finally, terrorism and the risk of non-State actors acquiring weapons of mass destruction remain real threats to international peace and security. As M .nber States, we must unite in the face of those threats and continue to give our full support to the 1373 Committee, the 1540 Committee and the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee.

Mr. Wang Min (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I would like to thank Ambassador Murmokaitė, Ambassador Oh Joon and Ambassador Quinlan for their briefings. China appreciates the work of the three Committees under the leadership of those three representatives.

I would like to focus my statement on the question of anti-terrorism. Terrorism is the common enemy of humankind. Recent violent terrorist attacks in Nigeria, China and other countries have once again demonstrated that any terrorist act, regardless of when, where, by whom or for what motive it is committed, is a grave and inexcusable crime.

The international community must adopt a zero-tolerance attitude in the face of terrorism, separatism and extremism and firmly oppose and counter them. The United Nations should play a greater role in counter-terrorism. The Organization should apply clear-cut criteria on the question of counter-terrorism, oppose double standards and encourage the international community to enhance counter-terrorism cooperation

in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and international law.

China opposes efforts to link terrorism with any specific country, ethnic group or religion and supports enhanced dialogue among civilizations and the elimination of the breeding grounds for terrorism by various comprehensive means. China believes that terrorists and terrorist groups are currently using new information and technology, including incitement, recruitment, financing and planning through the Internet. The international community should be highly vigilant on this issue and seek appropriate solutions to it.

The Eastern Turkestan terrorist forces, led by the Eastern Turkestan Islamic Movement, are the most serious terrorist threat to China's national security. The Chinese Government will continue to take resolute action against those terrorists. We have the determination, the confidence and capability to fight them. These terrorists will never succeed, regardless of the purpose of their attacks.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee bears a very important responsibility in the fight against terrorism, and we support its implementation of its mandate and its continuing efforts to improve the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions through measures such as the preliminary implementation assessment and by organizing relevant meetings and country visits. We hope it will continue to maintain a dialogue and communication with Member States, enhance its coordination and cooperation with other United Nations entities, and continue to help Member States build their capacity. China will continue to participate actively in international cooperation within the framework of the Council in order to fight the phenomenon of terrorism.

The Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities represents an important tool for the United Nations and the Council in combating terrorism and imposing sanctions. We support its efforts to enhance communication with the countries concerned in listing and de-listing names and to review the sanctions lists as scheduled, in order to promote implementation of resolutions 1267 (1999) and 2083 (2012) and fulfil its mandate effectively. China supports the work of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team under the Committee's leadership, and we have taken note of the efforts of the Office of the Ombudsman to enhance the impartiality and transparency of the sanctions regime. We hope the membership will continue to support the work of the Committee and work together to maintain the authority, effectiveness and impartiality of the United Nations sanctions regime.

Resolution 1540 (2004) was the first Council resolution to be assigned the important role of preventing non-State actors from acquiring nuclear, chemical, biological and other weapons of mass destruction. This year marks its tenth anniversary, and earlier this month the Council held an open debate (see S/PV.7169) at which it adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2014/7) that reflected the determination and commitment of the international community with regard to non-proliferation. The next step for all countries should be promoting the universal, comprehensive and balanced implementation of the resolution, and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) should do its part in that regard. China supports the work of the Committee in collecting reports from Member States, summarizing useful experiences in the implementation of the resolution and promoting international assistance and cooperation in accordance with its mandates. China is ready to work with all parties to enhance global governance in the area of non-proliferation and advance the international non-proliferation process in the interests of promoting universal security.

Mr. Nduhungirehe (Rwanda): I would like to thank Ambassadors Raimonda Murmokaité of Lithuania, Oh Joon of the Republic of Korea and Gary Quinlan of Australia for their statements.

Ambassador Bénédicte Frankinet will mention this in her statement, but I would also like to take this opportunity to strongly condemn the terrorist attack on the Jewish Museum in Brussels on Saturday. We offer our deep condolences to the families of the victims and to the people and Government of the Kingdom of Belgium. Terrorism is a cowardly act that targets the most vulnerable. It can hit anywhere at any time. We must therefore remain vigilant.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the Committees for their commitment to enforcing measures for maintaining and restoring international peace and security, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. We understand the need for the objective use of sanctions as an important instrument for enforcing Council decisions without resorting to force. On that basis we welcome the opportunity

presented by these biannual briefings on the work of the three United Nations subsidiary bodies designed to fight terrorism and non-proliferation, including by overseeing the implementation of sanctions imposed on individuals and entities and by monitoring their violations.

Rwanda believes that Al-Qaida and its affiliates still pose a serious threat to international peace and security. Though it is believed that Al-Qaida has had no central command since the death of its former leader, his absence, or the absence of that central command, has not discouraged religious radicalization, kidnappings and terrorist attacks in various parts of the world. However, we should remember that these extremist groups do not manufacture weapons or other military logistical supplies, and they do not operate in isolation. They receive arms supplies clandestinely through individuals, entities and even Member States.

We are very concerned about the branching out of Al-Qaida into almost every corner of Africa, creating affiliated groups such as Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb in the North, Al-Shabaab in the East and Boko Haram in Western and Central Africa. The persistent conflicts and instability, lack of solid institutions and the supply of uncontrolled weapons could make for fertile ground for incubating terrorism across Africa if concerted efforts are not made to address the root causes of conflicts, to provide a sustainable solution to crises and to neutralize terrorist organizations on the continent.

In that regard, my delegation welcomes the inclusion of Boko Haram on the list of entities subject to targeted financial sanctions and arms embargoes, as laid out in resolution 2083 (2012). On Monday, this group — which, as we all know, is responsible for the abduction of more than 200 young girls from a school in northern Nigeria — also attacked a Nigerian military base and police barracks in the town of Buni Yadi, killing 31 security personnel. It is important to support the Governments of Nigeria and its neighbours at this time in their efforts to eradicate this terrorist organization.

In accordance with resolution 1373 (2001), Member States are obliged to prevent and criminalize incitement and to strengthen international cooperation and border control. However, porous borders, inadequate financial means and lack of technical capacity of some Member States facilitate terrorist movements across borders without hindrance, especially in the Middle East, North Africa and the Sahel region. On that note we reiterate our appeal to the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate to support Member States in building their national counter-terrorism capacities and to foster international cooperation among the United Nations system, States and other governmental bodies.

As time has gone on, terrorism has benefited from technical advances and the power of the Internet, and from religious radicalization, poverty and lack of education. Although the masterminds of terrorism are political extremists and religious radicals, its proliferation, especially among young people, is amplified by poverty and a lack of education. While it is therefore critical to continue the fight against terrorist networks, we should at the same time invest heavily in education and povery eradication if we want to curb this scourge in the long term.

Rwanda supports the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and appreciates the efforts of Ambassador Oh Joon, particularly in improving outreach programmes and visibility for the Committee. In fulfilling the Committee's mandate, the outreach events around the world have raised global awareness and facilitated information-sharing on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and discussion of identification of possible needs for assistance and any future steps that Member States should undertake in support of the resolution's implementation.

We thank the Republic of Korea for its organization on 7 May of an open debate on non-proliferation (see S/PV.7169), which was presided over by His Excellency Mr. Yun Byung-se, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea. During that debate the Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2014/7) marking the tenth anniversary of the adoption of this landmark resolution, in which it expressed grave concern about the threat of terrorism and the risk of non-State actors acquiring, developing, trafficking in or using nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, given the rapid advances in science and technology. It is on that note that the 1540 Committee has strongly urged that we map out key areas requiring focus, so the resolution can be fully achieved by 2021.

We believe that overcoming new proliferation challenges requires new approaches to evolving situations and a consensus on the international security order that effectively addresses genuine proliferation concerns. Success in the fight against terrorism goes

hand in hand with progress in strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation and the exchange of information at the international, regional and subregional levels. In our joint efforts, the fundamental issue should be that of enhancing consistency and cooperation among the various counter-terrorism committees, as well as addressing the root causes of terrorism. In that regard, we are confident that increased partnership among the sanctions committees will contribute to a significant decrease in terrorism.

Mr. Omaish (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): First of all, allow me to express my sincerest gratitude to the Chairs of the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning Counter-Terrorism, and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), respectively, for their comprehensive briefings today.

Al-Qaida and its associated individuals and entities remain a very clear and serious threat to international peace and security despite a certain weakening of its core and its central organization. We are observing with great concern the emergence of new entities associated with Al-Qaida and its terrorist ideas, which are carrying out various dangerous activities around the world. In addition, they are using new methods, such as information technology of all types, to carry out terrorist activities through innovative tactics, using very low-cost and easily available materials. Al-Qaida therefore continues to threaten peace and security in the Middle East. There is no doubt that the conflicts that are ravaging certain States of the region provide environments conducive to the activity of terrorist organizations and entities. The clearest proof of that is the emergence of such terrorist organizations as the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria and Jabhat-al-Nusrah. The Al-Qaida Committee added the latter organization to its sanctions list about a week ago.

In that context, we think that it is extremely important for the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning Counter-Terrorism to continue to work tirelessly in the Middle East and in other regions of the world where terrorism is emerging.

Today Al-Qaida and its associated individuals and entities pose threats to international peace and security, and the international community has to confront those threats through a practical methodology consisting of a number of elements. They include, in particular, fostering international and regional cooperation among States; improving the exchange of relevant information, expertise and good practices; and assisting States in implementing sanctions regimes and in participating in the process of inscription on and deletion from lists on a case-by-case basis at the national and regional level. The role of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team of the Al-Qaida Committee should be strengthened. We would like to confirm the importance of the Team's recommendation regarding the need to provide biometric data on individuals on the Al-Qaida sanctions list. Cooperation with the Office of the Ombudsperson, which plays a very important and transparent role, should also be strengthened

Jordan appreciates the important role played by the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate in terms of capacity-building, raising awareness about the offices in charge of countering terrorism in various States, and coordinating visits to States. We would like to reiterate in that regard how important it is for the Committee and its Executive Directorate to coordinate technical assistance with Member States in accordance with their needs and on the basis of the constantly evolving security situation that we are witnessing. We call on the Executive Directorate to develop a strategy for a periodic review of the assistance provided to Member States so that the members of the Committee are duly informed of it.

Not much time has passed since the Council's open debate under the leadership of His Excellency Mr. Yun Byung-se, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, to mark the tenth anniversary of the Council's adoption of resolution 1540 (2004) (see S/PV.7169). During that debate, a number of proposals and ideas were presented to strengthen the work of the 1540 Committee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, Mr. President, and the entire delegation of the Republic of Korea, for your efforts in the work of the Committee. We appreciate the role of the Committee and of the Group of Experts in ensuring that all States are represented in the global reports, in establishing a network of contact points, in raising awareness and in facilitating the provision of assistance by contributing States to recipient States.

Lastly, my delegation would like to say how important it is for the Counter-Terrorism Committee to cooperate with Member States and how important it is

to strengthen national, regional and international efforts to confront the scourge that threatens the peace and security of people around the world. Jordan would like to reiterate that it will continue to play its leading role in fighting terrorism by adopting necessary measures, developing effective national legislation, sharing its expertise in combatting terrorism with other countries of its region and around the world, strengthening cooperation with the subsidiary bodies of the Security Council and other relevant bodies of the United Nations, and continuing to support international initiatives aimed at fostering the values of understanding, cooperation and rejection of terrorism and intellectual extremism, such as through "A Common Word Between Us and You" and World Understanding Week.

Mr. Bertoux (France) (*spoke in French*): Allow me, first of all, to thank the Ambassadors of Australia and Lithuania and you, Mr. President, for your briefings and leadership as the Chairs of the respective committees.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement that will be made by the Head of the Delegation of the European Union.

Terrorism is a threat more present than ever, as illustrated by recent tragic events. France joins others in condemning with the greatest firmness the terrible killings that took place at the Jewish Museum in Brussels. We express our full solidarity with the Belgian people in that ordeal and offer our condolences to the families of the victims.

For the struggle against the terrorist scourge to be effective, the Council, through its Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, must have at its disposal a flexible tool enabling it to implement swift sanctions when an emergency requires it. In that regard, several days following the Paris summit on security in Nigeria held on 17 May, the Committee took a decision, on 22 May, to place Boko Haram under sanctions, a decision that my country co-sponsored.

It is important to continue our efforts to update the sanctions list so that it correctly reflects the emerging threats in the fight against Al-Qaida. Today, France is particularly concerned about a new phenomenon, that of foreign combatants. These fighters are self-radicalized young people who travel to fight alongside terrorists. They represent a threat not only to the countries to which they travel, but also to their countries of origin, where they will probably return to settle. It is urgent that the sanctions Committee take action against that phenomenon, and in particular against the networks that aid and abet them.

Finally, the listing and delisting procedures of the sanctions list must respect the fundamental freedoms of the persons on the list. By creating and strengthening the Ombudsperson's mandate, the latest resolutions have allowed us to improve the procedural guarantees. While the Council is about to review the mandate of the 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) Committee, it is important that it continue to improve those guarantees.

Besides the Al-Qaida sanctions Committee, the issue of foreign combatants, which poses a new threat, must be taken seriously by all United Nations counter-terrorism bodies. We therefore encourage the Counter-Terrorism Committee to continue to address that issue, especially as its new mandate, defined by resolution 2129 (2013), includes the need to focus on recent trends in the field of terrorism. We also commend the Committee's particular focus on new threats through the holding of discussions on resolution 2133 (2014), on abductions for ransom.

Lastly, we would like to thank the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate for its programme of work, including several follow-up visits, to ensure the due implementation by Member States of the Council's requirements in the fight against terrorism, namely, resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). It is essential to pursue that dialogue with Member States by carrying out regular follow-up visits.

With regard to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), I would like to recall that the proliferation of nuclear, radiological, biological and chemical weapons and their means of delivery and the risk of their falling into the hands of terrorists pose a genuine threat. Resolution 1540 (2004) and its rigorous implementation by Member States plays an important role in averting that risk. In that regard, I would like to thank and congratulate you, Mr. President, for the successful organization of the high-level Security Council debate to commemorate the tenth anniversary of resolution 1540 (2004) (S/PV.7169) in early May. Presidential statement S/PRST/2014/7, which the Council adopted on that occasion, also serves as a road map for the work of the 1540 (2004) Committee.

Since its adoption in 2004, the progress noted in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) has been

important. Today, a majority of States in the world have adopted measures to replicate the provisions of the resolution in their national legislation, and the main international, regional and subregional organizations have adopted strategies to promote and implement that important resolution. In that regard, we must continue to encourage countries that have not yet done so to provide the Committee with a report on the implementation of the resolution in their national legislation.

Over the past 10 years, the Committee has also continued its cooperation with several international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as with other subsidiary bodies of the Council whose activities are aligned with the goals of resolution 1540 (2004). The Committee has much to gain from expanded cooperation with the international bodies responsible for combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in particular in developing partnerships related to technical assistance. We hope that this cooperation will continue unhindered.

In the light of those developments, the Committee should undertake a strategic review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the longer term and to incorporate the results of that analysis in the Committee's comprehensive review in 2016. The presidential statement adopted at the start of the month paves the way for conducting that important exercise.

In conclusion, to meet the growing challenge of terrorism, we must continue to promote close cooperation between all structures combatting that phenomenon. It would be useful for the fourth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which will take place in June, to address strengthened coordination, as well as emerging problems, such as that of foreign combatants, so that the international community is better equipped to confront those threats.

Mr. Oyarzábal (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, allow me, through you, Mr. President, to thank the Permanent Representatives of Lithuania, Australia and yourself, in your capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), for your informative briefings and your work in leading the subsidiary bodies.

I would like to begin by reaffirming that the General Assembly, together with the Security Council and its competent bodies, are the most appropriate forums for effective action to prevent and eradicate terrorism. In that sense, we consider it important to continue to strengthen the coordination and coherence of the United Nations activities in the fight against terrorism. That is particularly important this year when the General Assembly will hold the fourth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in June.

First, I would like to refer to the work of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, and to underscore, as noted by the Chair of the Committee in his briefing, the importance of ensuring that the sanctions regime remains an effective response to the threat represented by Al-Qaida and its associated entities. In that regard, we agree with Ambassador Quinlan that is essential to ensure that the list of individuals and entities subject to sanctions remains relevant and evolves in line with the evolution of Al-Qaida and its associated entities. On that point, we join the support for the inclusion of the Boko Haram group in the list, as was done just a few days ago.

Furthermore, we believe that in order to maintain the effectiveness of the sanctions regime, it is important to guarantee respect for due process. As on previous occasions, I would like to acknowledge the work of the Ombudsperson, Kimberly Prost, who is an example of efficiency, professionalism and independence. In that connection, we have carefully considered her report to the Security Council (S/2014/73), dated 31 January 2014, and we regret that, in accordance with paragraph 70, she has been obligated to submit reports on her travels, which is a clear interference in the independence of the work of the Office of the Ombudsperson and compromises its efficiency. We consider it essential that the impartiality of the Ombudsperson and the confidential nature of her work be respected. Therefore, we believe that the Security Council should closely monitor that issue to ensure that the Ombudsperson can carry out her duties independently and without restrictions. We also believe that the Ombudsperson should have the appropriate tools to carry out the mandate entrusted to her by the Council. Therefore, we note the challenges and pending issues identified in the report, for example, the need for a database and the importance of improving methods in certain issues related to transparency.

Finally, let me reaffirm the importance of the availability of the list in the six official languages of the Organization. This issue is directly relevant to the implementation of the list by the competent authorities and the relevance of the sanctions regime. On that

issue, I would like once again to thank the Chair of the Committee for his efforts to find a solution to that problem, which we hope will be resolved as soon as possible. I would also like to underscore the work carried out by the Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Matters, which examined the practice of the different sanctions Committees in the area of the translation of their respective lists, in order to contribute, from a general point of view, to the way in which the 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) Committee deals with that issue.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee plays an important role in ensuring that the international community's efforts in the fight against terrorism are more effective. In that context, we welcome the adoption of resolution 2129 (2013) and the extension of the mandate until 31 December 2017 of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), which assists the Committee in its work. In that regard, we hope that respect for human rights and the validity of the rule of law in the context of the fight against terrorism continue to be cross-cutting aspects of the Executive Directorate's work.

The open debate of 7 May on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004) and the prospects for its implementation, which was presided over by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of your country, Mr. President, clearly demonstrated that Member States agree on underscoring the 1540 Committee's work and the resolution's provisions as essential tools to prevent weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery from falling into the hands of terrorists (see S/PV.7169).

At the same time, the debate allowed the international community to reaffirm that, in combating terrorism, effective international efforts depend on the adoption and implementation of the necessary national measures and regional coordination. It also underscored the need to mobve forward in the area of nuclear disarmament, since, while weapons of mass destruction continue to exist, there will be the risk of them falling into the hands of terrorists. As many delegations, including mine, pointed out during that open debate, the only way to eliminate that risk is the complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate our support for initiatives that help to improve transparency in the work of the Security Council and its subsidiary bodies, as well as actions to strengthen their coordination and cooperation so as to enhance the Security Council's contribution to the fight against terrorism and allow for consideration of the issue in a more comprehensive manner.

Mr. Cherif (Chad) (*spoke in French*): I join other speakers before me in thanking Ambassadors Raimonda Murmokaite of Lithuania, Oh Joon of the Republic of Korea and Gary Quinlan of Australia, the respective Chairs of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) on the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, for their briefings. I congratulate them on their leadership at the head of those Committees.

Allow me also to add my voice to those of previous speakers in condemning the attack against the Jewish Museum in Brussels and to offer our condolences to the families of the victims and the Government of Belgium.

Chad welcomes the growing cooperation among the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the Group of Experts of the 1540 Committee and the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team. With regard to the Counter-Terrorism Committee, Chad welcomes the adoption of resolution 2129 (2013), which renewed the mandate of the Executive Directorate by providing it with guidance in order to better assist Member States in fully implementing resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). Furthermore, Chad welcomes the Committee's activities set out in the briefing by its Chair and underscores the threat posed by ransom payments. Such a practice is a source of revenue that perpetuates criminal and terrorist acts. In that regard, we look forward with interest to the special meeting to be held on the issue of kidnapping for ransom.

With regard to the 1540 Committee, Chad commends the adoption of its programme of work from 1 June 2014 to 31 January 2015, the visits to Niger and Bangladesh and the 46 global awareness-raising actions. Moreover, Chad awaits with interest the development of a strategy for the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), recommended by the Security Council in the presidential statement of 7 May (S/PRST/2014/7) and the review of recommendations on strengthening assistance mechanisms. Chad reiterates its commitment to working for the implementation of resolution 1540

(2004) and calls for increased dialogue between the 1540 Committee and the 21 Member States that have still to submit their reports.

With regard to the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, Chad welcomes the fact that Boko Haram is now on the Al-Qaida sanctions list. Chad is concerned about the growing threat posed by Boko Haram, which is increasingly organized and professional, as demonstrated by its modus operandi. Boko Haram has human, materiel and logistical resources.

Chad is also concerned about the regrouping of the militants of Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) in southern Libya following their defeat in Mali, as the fifteenth report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team (S/2104/14) notes. We are also concerned about the diverse and sophisticated means used by the terrorist group and their movement around the world.

The use of the Internet, its social media and improvised explosive devices and the regrouping of more than 9,000 foreign fighters in Syria are likewise of concern. Chad calls for the identification of the main leaders in order to include them on the sanctions list and encourages the ongoing review of that list, in which all Member States should participate by providing detailed and up-to-date information.

With regard to the sanctions regime, like many other States, Chad believes that the listing and delisting procedures of individuals on the sanctions list should be examined in depth to ensure a more transparent mechanism that is consistent with the relevant legal standards and practices.

Finally, with regard to the considerable threat posed by a number of terrorist groups in Africa, such as Boko Haram, AQIM and Al-Shabaab, Chad calls for increased cooperation among the Committees, Member States and regional and subregional organizations in order to strengthen legal, technical and professional capacities, including in the military and security fields, with a view to the effective implementation of sanctions. In line with its means, Chad is ready to participate in joint and coordinated actions to restore peace and stability in Africa and elsewhere.

Mr. Zagaynov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We thank the Permanent Representatives of Lithuania, Australia and your country, Mr. President, for their briefings on the work of the respective Committees. Such activities are an important contribution to strengthening the central coordinating role of the United Nations and the Security Council in the area of international cooperation to counter terrorism.

The events of recent months demonstrate that terrorism remains a key threat to international peace and security. At the heart of anti-terror activities is the conflict in Syria, which is fanning the flames in northern and western Africa, including the Sahel region, and continues to destabilize Afghanistan and the Middle East. Extremists of various affiliations are trying to harness the turbulence in unstable regions by skilfully feeding off social problems, the lack of an alternative to criminality and long-standing sectarian and religious differences. Terrorists are actively taking advantage of recent information technology developments, including to recruit extremists remotely. They move unhindered through porous borders and exploit loopholes in legislation on criminal activities.

A subject of worry, terrorism continues to weave itself into the fabric of modern regional and other armed conflicts. In that context, the most pressing problem is the participation of citizens of various countries in such conflicts on the side of terrorist organizations, above all, Al-Qaida and its affiliates. It is necessary to address such risks at the early stage, to continue efforts to improve knowledge-sharing among competent Government departments, to make terrorist activities less attractive, and to combat the spread of the ideology of terrorism and violent extremism, including in the media and on the Internet.

The Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) continues to set the tone in counter-terrorist cooperation within the Organization. Increasing attention is being given to a comprehensive approach in combating terrorism, taking into account preventive measures for combating that scourge. There is a growing understanding of a need to involve civil society, academia and the media in the efforts of Government structures and international organizations in that sphere. That was confirmed by the adoption in December of resolution 2129 (2013), which adapted the mandate of the CTC and its Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) to the new realities.

We commend the role of CTED in providing assistance to the Counter-Terrorism Committee. We think CTED should focus, in the framework of its updated mandate, on one of its key elements, which is

supporting the CTC in monitoring the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005) and coordinating the provision of technical assistance to Member States. CTED activities that prepare comprehensive counter-terrorist strategies are of particular significance. We are in favour of strengthening its role as a key expert organ in that field, commanding necessary experience and methodology. It is necessary to maintain the current rate of successful CTC country visits. We find useful the initiatives of the new CTED leadership to stimulate direct contact between prosecutors and judges in various States directly involved in prosecutions and trials of cases of a terrorist nature.

It is relevant to update the global review of the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005) and the plan of action for the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005). We believe it is important to further strengthen CTC contacts with other structures and organizations with a view to expanding the network of counter-terrorist cooperation under the aegis of the United Nations. In that respect, we note the interactions of the CTC, the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) at the meeting of heads of special services, security agencies and law enforcement organizations on the issue of terrorism, which was organized by the Russian Federation's Federal Security Services. We intend to continue the practice of holding briefings by representatives from that meeting to the CTC.

The Committee on Al-Qaida remains one of the most effective Security Council mechanisms in the field of counter-terrorism. Its sanctions list must adequately reflect the Al-Qaida threat, which, as recent events in the Arab world and in Africa have shown, has not faded. We support proposals on inclusion in the list of new entities by Member States. We think that the Committee needs to swiftly respond to the changing nature of the threat and to consider applications without excessive red tape.

The powers of the Ombudsperson, set out in resolution 2083 (2012), provide an optimal level of transparency for the Committee's work. However, the practical activities of that entity sometimes fall short. Sadly, at times it suffers from a narrow, short-sighted approach, ignoring the opinion of interested States. A top priority should be improving the effectiveness of the sanctions mechanism, which fully depends on implementation by States of relevant commitments. In that context, we are troubled by references to the opinion of national judicial forums being used as a pretext for ignoring Security Council decisions. Such a policy calls into question the prerogatives of the Council in combating terrorism.

The adoption in 2004 of resolution 1540 (2004), which Russia initiated, was the result of a general understanding of the need to prevent weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems falling into the hands of non-State actors, above all, terrorists. The goals set out in the resolution are more relevant than ever for all members of the international community.

In recent months, the 1540 Committee's Group of Experts has continued successful work. We trust that new members of the Group, given their experience and qualifications, will be able to join that work smoothly. The 7 May Security Council high-level open debate on the theme of non-proliferation (see S/PV.7169) was a milestone. The main outcome was agreeing on a presidential statement (S/PRST/2014/7) that will serve as a benchmark for the work of the 1540 Committee for the period up to the comprehensive review in 2016.

All of us, all responsible members of the international community, have collective, long-term interests in the sphere of non-proliferation. One of our priorities should be continued, full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by all countries. In that resolution, all three kinds of weapons of mass destruction — nuclear, chemical and biological — are treated as a whole, which confirms the equal danger of any of them falling into the hands of terrorists. In the last 10 years, much has been done to implement that binding document. While 172 Member States have presented their first reports on implementation, there is still a long way to go. A remaining priority in the Committee's work is providing technical assistance to States. It is vital that the 1540 Committee effectively carries out the functions of the central coordinator of activities on implementation of the resolution, to define its goals and priorities and to focus the main efforts on the work of countries that have yet to present their first national reports.

Ms. Lucas (Luxembourg) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to join others in thanking Ambassador Raimonda Murmokaitė, Ambassador Gary Quinlan and you, Mr. President, Ambassador Oh Joon, for the briefings and the commitment with which all have presided over the Committees established

under resolutions 1373 (2001), 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), and 1540 (2004), respectively. I would like to thank our Lithuanian colleague for her joint briefing, which highlighted the continued cooperation between the three Committees and their groups of experts.

Luxembourg associates itself with the statement to be made by the European Union.

Current events, whether in the Sahel, the Horn of Africa or the Middle East, remind us every day to what extent terrorism continues to threaten international peace and security. In the face of that scourge, we welcome the fact that the three competent Security Council Committees and their groups of experts continue to interact with a view to coordinating their activities and to exchange information on the issues before them.

We encourage the three groups of experts to continue coordinating their outreach activities and their field visits in order to facilitate the participation of their respective experts and to ensure a consistent approach. The assessment visit to Mongolia — which takes place this week, headed by Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, on behalf of the the Counter-Terrorism Committee, with the participation of the Group of Experts of the 1540 Committee and the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team of the 1267/1989 Committee — is a good example in that respect.

We welcome the commitment of the three groups of experts in the framework of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, which has contributed to the preparation for the United Nations fourth global counter-terrorism strategic review.

The sanctions regime established under resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) on Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities is one of the most important multilateral tools that the international community has for combating terrorism. It targets the various factions of Al-Qaida and its affiliates to deprive them of weapons and funding, limit their movements and thus weaken their ability to perpetrate acts of terrorism.

For the regime to be effective, the listing process for persons and entities and the delisting procedures must be guided by the principles of equity, respect for the rule of law, credibility and transparency. Similarly, sanctions must be applied diligently. The consolidated list must also evolve in step with the threat.

We support the rapid and strategic work by the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, which seeks to ensure that the sanctions imposed by the Security Council support national and regional responses to the evolving terrorist threat from Al-Qaida. That approach encourages Member States to take ownership of the listing process. It proved its worth last week when, at the request of Nigeria, the Committee approved the listing of Boko Haram on the sanctions list. That designation is welcome and fully justified.

We commend the role of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team in highlighting the changing nature of the Al-Qaida threat and for recommending ways to adapt sanctions to the noted changes in the protocol and scope of that threat. Mr. Evans and his Team can rely on our full support in discharging their mandate. We support the recommendations of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team and believe it is necessary for the Committee to maintain a comprehensive approach linked to an ongoing assessment of the threat.

The Office of the Ombudsman plays an important impartial role in applying the sanctions regime. The Committee continues to work with the Ombudsman on delisting requests. That process helps in ensuring that the Al-Qaida sanctions list is targeted and effective. We congratulate Ms. Kimberly Prost on the independence, professionalism and courage with which she fulfils her mission. The review of resolution 2083 (2012) next month will be a useful opportunity to further strengthen the procedures and effectiveness of the Committee and the Office of the Ombudsman. The Group of Like-Minded States on Targeted Sanctions has made constructive proposals in that regard, in particular to improve information-sharing between the Office of the Ombudsman and the Member States and to strengthen the transparency of decisions to delist or maintain elements on the sanctions list.

Regarding the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, we support the efforts of the Committee to strengthen the capacity of Member States to help them to fully implement resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). Those efforts are a response to the guidance given by resolution 2129 (2013), which renewed the mandate of Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. We welcome the fact that the Committee has decided to pay enhanced attention to the fight

against hostage-taking for ransom and the prevention of terrorists' misuse of travel documents.

We commend the work of Mr. Laborde at the head of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. The close interaction between the Executive Directorate and Member States is essential for the full implementation of their commitments in the fight against terrorism. We encourage the Executive Directorate to continue its capacity-building activities and to propose mechanisms for technical assistance to countries that request it. Luxembourg is prepared to assist in that regard. We have thus sponsored a regional workshop on the freezing of terrorist assets, which is organized jointly by the Executive Directorate and the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force. The workshop is being held today, tomorrow and the day after tomorrow in Tunis.

Finally, regarding the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), it cannot be stressed enough that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery constitutes a threat to international peace and security. The threat from terrorists or other non-State actors who might acquire, develop, traffic or use such weapons is elevated. It is the duty of all Member States to fight against that threat.

During the open debate (see S/PV.7169) held on 7 May by the Korean presidency on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004), the Council renewed the commitment it had undertaken 10 years earlier. It acknowledged the role of the 1540 Committee as a clearinghouse that connects applicants and providers of assistance and recognized the essential contribution that civil society, industry and the private sector have to make. To counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, we must indeed mobilize all possible efforts. The Council also stressed the importance of close and effective cooperation and coordination between the 1540 Committee, the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

The cooperation of those three Committees and their Groups of Experts has created synergies. We must continue on that path. Everyone will thus win, and terrorists will lose.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Israel.

Mr. Roet (Israel): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for presiding over this important meeting. We would also like to express our gratitude to the Permanent Representatives of Lithuania, Australia and the Republic of Korea for chairing the Committees and for their comprehensive briefings. Israel believes that the United Nations counter-terrorism Committees are essential to global efforts to isolate terrorists. We appreciate their dedicated work, along with that of other relevant agencies.

For the past month, the world's attention has been focused on the kidnapping of hundreds of girls from a school in north-eastern Nigeria by Boko Haram. When our children are not safe in their schools and our families are not safe in their homes, then we, as an international community, have failed. Israel welcomes the inclusion of Boko Haram on the sanctions list of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, but there is still much more work to be done.

In its 66-year history, Israel has not known a single day free from terrorism. With every siren that wails, every report of a terrorist attack and even every car backfiring, our hearts miss a beat. There is not a family in Israel that does not know the bitter taste of tragedy. This past weekend, a gunman stormed the Jewish Museum of Belgium in Brussels, killing Dominique Chabrier, a French citizen; Alexandre Strens, a Belgian citizen; and Emanuel and Miriam Riva, two Israeli citizens. That horrific act proves yet again that both anti-Semitism and terrorism are not confined by national borders.

Since the beginning of this year, over 100 rockets have been fired from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip into southern Israel. Hamas now seeks the veneer of international legitimacy by partnering with Fatah. In case the Council thinks Hamas has changed its tune, 48 hours after forging a unity agreement, Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal stated, "Our path is resistance and jihad is our choice", and if anyone had any further doubt, he also stated, "This is the original Palestinian strategy". It is clear from that statement that lending support to the Hamas-Abbas partnership is the same as lending legitimacy to terror attacks against Israel.

The reach of terrorist organizations has grown dramatically and dangerously. Israelis have become the targets of an Iranian terror campaign executed by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard and Hizbullah.

Those groups are responsible for attacks throughout the world, from Burgas and Buenos Aires to Bangkok. Just last month, authorities in Thailand foiled a plan by Hizbullah agents to attack Israeli tourists. Hizbullah has built its arsenal to unprecedented levels, amassing over 80,000 deadly missiles and rockets, which it stores throughout Lebanon in schools, homes and hospitals. In doing so, it is committing a double war crime: first by using Lebanese civilians as human shields; and secondly by targeting Israeli civilians.

Both Hamas and Hizbullah receive funding and support from the world's primary sponsor of terrorism, Iran. In March, the Israeli Defense Forces intercepted a cargo ship, the *KLOS C*, sent by Iran and carrying advanced weaponry destined for the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip. The *KLOS C* was a close call. That time, it was a ship carrying rockets bound for Tel Aviv. Next time, it could be carrying a bomb meant for a capital city in Europe or Asia or the Americas.

Iran is not easily discouraged, and it continues to fan the flames of conflict across the Middle East. In Syria, where the worst humanitarian crisis of this generation is taking place, Iran has sent terrorist groups from Lebanon and Iraq to fight alongside the brutal Al-Assad regime. Directing this network is Qasem Soleimani, the chief of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard's Quds Force. Thousands of foreign fighters from all over Europe and the Middle East have joined Al-Qaida in Syria and are aggravating sectarian tensions in the region. Syria has become the foremost academy for both Sunni and Shiite terrorists, teaching the philosophy of fundamentalism, the engineering of explosives and the calculus of chaos.

The international community must stand firm in combating terrorism. Terrorism cannot be justified on any grounds or for any reason, and it must be condemned in all its forms and manifestations. The Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee and the 1540 Committee all remain essential parts of the global effort to isolate terrorists and deny them the means to inflict harm.

Israel attaches great importance to the work of the United Nations counter-terrorism agencies and commends the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) for its ongoing contribution to coordinating action against terrorism. CTED has done an excellent job monitoring the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), which Israel fully implements and which constitutes the centrepiece of the United Nations efforts to create a robust counter-terrorism system. We support the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which is currently being negotiated. Israel believes that all four pillars of the Strategy must be treated as a whole. Israel also recently submitted its periodic report in accordance with resolution 1540 (2004).

In Israel, the threat of terrorism is not theoretical. It is prevalent and it is persistent. Out of necessity, we have become experts in the field of counter-terrorism and are sharing our knowledge with Governments throughout the world. Israeli experts have contributed their expertise on a range of issues, from terrorist financing to forensic investigation and from aviation security to border protection. Those activities reflect our fundamental belief that terrorism can only be effectively confronted through international cooperation.

There is a specific kind of ecosystem that creates terrorism. It is seeded in hate, watered with instability and cultivated by rogue regimes. As an international community, we must attack the roots of terrorist infrastructure and stem the flow of arms and money from its sponsors. Working together, we can abolish the weapons of war before they abolish us.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank you, Madam President, for holding this important meeting. We would like to thank the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies for their briefings.

Six months have passed since the most recent briefing by the three Chairs of the subsidiary bodies (see S/PV.7071). In the course of that time, my country, the Syrian Arab Republic, and dozens of other Member States such as Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, Libya, Yemen, the Russian Federation, China, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan and others have experienced brutal terrorist attacks. The attacks have been of various types and committed by various groups, yet they are united in their abhorrent and criminal terrorist approach and blind radicalism.

Just a few days ago, Jabhat al-Nusra, a terrorist organization that has been designated as such by the Security Council counter-terrorism committees, detonated two car bombs in the Old City of Homs to deter the efforts of the Government at national reconciliation. Dozens of innocent civilians died. Regrettably, the reports of senior officials of the Secretariat, some reports of the Secretary-General and statements made by certain colleagues in the Council describe Jabhat

al-Nusra as an armed opposition group in Syria. Some still use that expression in this very Council.

Those terrorist acts have demonstrated their perpetrators' ability to launch further terrorist attacks despite the efforts deployed at the national, regional and international levels to combat terrorism. Terrorist organizations utilize the circumstances in some Member States to find new bases for themselves, benefiting from the failure of the Governments of some Member States to meet their obligations and from the support provided to them by those Governments and our Organization, which are of the view that the ends justifies the means and that terrorism may be an effective means to serve their foreign policies and interventionist interests that they seek to achieve at the expense of innocent lives.

We express our condolences and sympathy to the victims of terrorism, and we are of the view that the lives taken and the bloodshed resulting from such terrorist acts must compel us to act seriously and abide by international calls to combat terrorism. The United Nations represents the main international forum for coordinating and fostering international efforts designed to eradicate the threat terrorism poses to international peace and security, the safety and stability of States and the prosperity of peoples. Success in that endeavour necessitates, first and foremost, eschewing anything that would undermine the role and credibility of the United Nations, such as politicizing the efforts to combat terrorism, seeking to excuse the perpetrators of terrorist acts, or classifying terrorism as "halal terrorism", or lawful terrorism, and "haram terrorism", or unlawful terrorism. Terrorism is terrorism, regardless of where it happens and who perpetrates it.

The abduction by Boko Haram of innocent Nigerian girls is a contemptible and condemnable action. The abductions carried out by terrorist groups acting in Syria have harmed hundreds of women and children and are condemnable and shameful acts.

Only two days ago, in Idlib City, near the Turkish/Syrian border, four suicide bombers from Jabhat al-Nusra detonated themselves in vehicles carrying several tons of explosives. That piece of news may not sound surprising, but we should note that the first suicide bomber was from the United States, the second from the Maldives, the third from Turkestan and the fourth from Syria.

The sister of Mohamed Merah, the terrorist killed in Toulouse, left France for Syria without the knowledge of the French authorities, who had had under supervision, or so they claim. That terrorist is now in Syria and is fighting alongside the terrorists — and some call them "foreign fighters". Even some of my colleagues might be ashamed of using terrorists, but they call them foreign fighters. As long as the subject is terrorism in Syria, these are not terrorists; they are called foreign fighters. If, however, they are somewhere else, they are called terrorists.

The terrorist acts committed by terrorists, radicals and foreign mercenaries crossing our borders to wage war on our country's territory are targeting Syria's ancient civilization, State institutions, infrastructure and services. They are targeting Syrians and their schools, universities, hospitals, mosques, churches and places of work. They have also attacked diplomatic missions, foreign journalists and peacekeeping personnel in the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and humanitarian assistance convoys. Yesterday, we witnessed an attack by terrorist groups on a fact-finding team from the Organization for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons on its way to verify allegations of the use of chlorine gas in the village of Kfar Zeita, north of Hama. This was done with the aim of undermining faith in Syria's cooperation in the area of eliminating chemical weapons and preventing the team from doing its job. A doctor was also prevented from going to the village to verify the use of toxic gas.

The terrorist groups' ongoing activities, including the cutting off of drinking water and sewage services for 3 million citizens in Aleppo, targeting schools and universities with rockets and bombing an election meeting are a direct result of the support they receive from Governments of United Nations Member States that turn a blind eye to their crimes, give them all sorts of support and describe them as a moderate opposition.

We listened attentively to the briefings by the Chairmen of the Security Council subsidiary bodies, and we would like to emphasize the priority of the following issues.

First, all Member States should be obliged to cease giving any form or support or financing to terrorism, in accordance with resolution 1373 (2001). They must prevent their citizens, institutions and any businesses operating in their territory from supporting such terrorism. In that connection, I would like to refer to a report issued by the Brookings Doha Center, headed by the former Prime Minister of Qatar, which states that in the autumn of 2011 some philanthropic societies were

subject to United States sanctions, and that influential business leaders in the Gulf States have actively worked to form and finance terrorist operations in Syria. Residents in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Qatar sent millions of dollars to finance terrorist acts that resulted in the deaths of hundreds of Syrian civilians.

Secondly, radicalism and bigotry should be combated regardless of their justifications. The incitment to violence and terrorism in my country encouraged by some States must end, in accordance with resolution 1624 (2005). They must refrain from disseminating hate speech, attempting to sow the seeds of sedition and ethnic, factional and religious proclivities.

Thirdly, radical and terrorist groups should be prevented from acquiring the capacity to exploit the media and modern technology, particularly the Internet, in order to coordinate and implement terrorist acts, glorify terrorism, spread terrorist propaganda, deceive young people and seduce them into joining their ranks.

Fourthly, the efforts of terrorist groups to acquire weapons of mass destruction and their means of manufacture and delivery should be thwarted, in accordance with resolution 1540 (2004). We should be informed of the steps taken by the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) to address the information it has received from the Syrian Government on the acquisition by armed terrorist groups of chemical weapons and the involvement of some other States in the region in this matter.

Fifthly, terrorist organizations that are affiliated with Al-Qaida should be placed on the lists of the Committee pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, and should have sanctions imposed on them similar to those already imposed on Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities. Borders should be controlled and the flow of terrorists into Syria to fight alongside terrorist organizations curbed. It is no secret that foreign terrorists have been imported by certain specific, well-known Governments of more than 80 States to run amok there. The total number of foreign terrorists brought into Syria is larger than those who have entered Iraq and Afghanistan. This phenomenon is significant in that it has led to some States admitting belatedly how enormous and grave the situation is and the importance of finding the means to fight it successfully.

Our delegation calls for more transparency in the work of the counter-terrorism committees. Some records circulated in closed meetings, in which Member States have revealed major issues, indicate the degree to which Syria's neighbouring States abide by the provisions of resolution 2118 (2013), as well as violations of resolution 1550 (2004), with these networks crossing borders. The actions taken by the committees to deal with such matters are not clear. We have received no reply to the dozens of letters sent to the various committees dedicated to countering the terrorism that is battering my country on the involvement of specific Governments in that terrorism.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to reiterate that the States supporting the terrorism of which Syria is the primary victim include Israel, which does not need an academy of terrorism. It brought radicalism and terrorism to the region along with Zionism and the crimes perpetrated by its Zionist bands against all of us. Those States also include Saudi Arabia and Qatar. They are accomplices in the taking of Syrian lives. My delegation appeals to the Council to shoulder its responsibilities, to condemn those and other States, to hold them and others that support terrorism accountable, to force them to refrain from their subversive practices and respect their obligations under international law and the Charter of the United Nations. Foreign occupation is the most dangerous form of aggression and terrorism, and that is what Israel represents in the international Organization.

The President: I now give the floor to the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

Mr. Mayr-Harting: I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member States. The candidate countries Turkey, Montenegro and Serbia; the country of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

I thank the President very much for organizing this annual briefing. This is a very important discussion, and it is clearly also important that we find the right sort of language. I am sorry that the preceding speaker was unable to do so in his concluding remarks.

Let me start by expressing our appreciation to the Committee Chairs for their extensive updates and

summaries of the actions and initiatives that they have taken. This year has already seen several events to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004). Those included a Security Council briefing on 10 April and an open debate on 7 May (see S/PV.7169). We strongly support such initiatives. Outreach is an essential part of our work to raise awareness of the challenge and our response and to garner broad political support.

Resolution 1540 (2004) is often viewed through the lens of counter-terrorism, but it is more than that. The proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, constitutes a threat to international peace and security. The threat of terrorism and the risk that non-State actors may acquire, develop, traffic in or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery remain high. Therefore, it is the duty of all States of the world to fight the threat. The full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) is not simply a legal requirement. It is incumbent upon us all and in all of our interests.

We therefore applaud the efforts of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), efforts at matchmaking between donors and those that seek support. We will redouble our efforts to play our part in helping partners to implement resolution 1540 (2004). For example, we have adopted an EU Council decision in support of the practical implementation of that resolution and signed an agreement with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs as the implementing agency. A large component of the EU Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Centres of Excellence initiative is devoted to supporting national action plans on resolution 1540 (2004). Universal reporting under the resolution is within reach, and I hope that we will achieve that goal this year.

Finally, we support the recommendations that were agreed in the 2013 annual review, including the sharing of effective practices, the development of a living network of points of contact and interaction with civil society and the private sectors, as well as with parliamentarians. We hope that those recommendations can be implemented quickly.

The terrorist threat that we face continues to evolve, with more active terrorist groups than before. In 2013, there were nearly 10,000 terrorist attacks, resulting in more than 18,000 deaths and over 32,000 injuries. Terrorism remains a threat to global peace and security. Resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001) are therefore still as pertinent and important as ever. They play a crucial role in our security. That is underscored in the recent report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations system in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/68/841).

We remain committed to the idea that the scourge of terrorism can be overcome only by measures that adhere to the highest human rights standards and are in full compliance with the rule of law. Terrorism needs to be fought as a crime by law and within the law with full respect for fundamental rights.

We welcome the fact that the Security Council has taken significant steps to further reinforce fair and clear procedures for United Nations sanctions. We commend the Ombudsperson's work and reiterate our support for her unwavering efforts. We reiterate our call upon all Member States to extend their full cooperation to the Office of the Ombudsperson in each and every case. The discussions in the Council in June on the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee will provide an excellent opportunity to further advance those procedures and to strengthen the effectiveness of the Committee and the work of the Ombudsperson.

We welcome the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), in particular the vast array of counter-terrorism efforts and activities. In the period of concern, we participated with great interest in a number of events focused on countering the financing of terrorism and preventing terrorist travel, such as the high-level open briefing on 25 April on preventing the misuse of travel documents by terrorists, traveller identification management and document security. That is a crucial issue, in particular as many countries are faced with the growing threat of an increasing flow of international recruits to terrorist organizations, including foreign fighters. Such foreign fighters can pose an acute terrorist threat on their return to their home countries. Sharing information and best practices on detecting those who travel abroad to fight and on preventing them from doing so is vital. We strongly support further work in that area.

We warmly welcome resolution 2129 (2013), which renews the mandate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED). The resolution calls on the Committee and CTED to be more active in countering violent extremism and to focus on

prevention in response to the global terrorist threat. Communities, civil society and other partners should be involved in finding solutions. The resolution also highlights the positive role that victims of terrorism and women can play in that process.

Finally, it is worth drawing attention to resolution 2133 (2014), which is the first resolution dedicated to the issue of kidnapping for ransom. Building on the commitments made in resolution 1373 (2001), it calls upon all Member States to take action to prevent terrorists from benefiting directly or indirectly from ransom payments or from political concessions and to work together to secure the safe release of hostages.

I would like to conclude my intervention by underscoring that our resolve to defeat terrorism and the proliferation of chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear weapons must never weaken or falter. We remain committed to working with the three Committees. Their work must remain a priority for the United Nations and its Member States.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Japan.

Mr. Umemoto (Japan): At the outset, I would like to thank the Chairs of the Council's three counter-terrorism committees for their comprehensive briefings.

As several other colleagues have mentioned, the threat of terrorism is still a reality. We are all deeply enraged by the abduction of more than 200 schoolgirls by Boko Haram, which has renewed our determination to fight against terrorism. Any violence committed by terrorists against innocent people cannot be justified on any grounds or for any purpose. Japan firmly condemns any act of terrorism.

The international community should continue to work together to eliminate all kinds of violence. In that context, since the fourth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is now under way, there is no doubt that such an opportunity can serve to enhance awareness of the importance and necessity of counter-terrorism measures and to further promote the efforts of Member States in that regard. Japan has participated in the process in a constructive manner in order to achieve such objectives.

I would like to take this opportunity to suggest a renewed focus on the importance of each relevant body working not only individually in an effective manner but also in close coordination with other relevant bodies in order to generate synergy. For example, Japan highly appreciates the initiative of the Chair of the 1540 Committee in organizing the briefing to Member States on 28 February, with the presence of Mr. Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary General of the World Customs Organization. Japan would like to support such ongoing cooperation among the three committees and other relevant organizations.

In commemorating the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004), Japan highly appreciates the initiative of the Chair of the 1540 Committee to hold an open debate on 7 May (see S/PV.7169) and strongly supports presidential statement S/PRST/2014/7, adopted on that occasion. As many States stated at the open debate, and as mentioned in the presidential statement, resolution 1540 (2004) has played a significant role in promoting the importance of non-proliferation efforts. At the same time, we have to make further and continued efforts with a view to achieving its full implementation. In this context, we commend and fully support efforts of the Chair of the 1540 Committee to strengthen its activities, such as raising awareness of the importance of non-proliferation efforts, in particular among high level policymakers.

For its part, Japan intends to advance its activities in support of resolution 1540 (2004), inter alia by collaborating with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, and in organizing relevant seminars in Tokyo and in New York. I would like to reconfirm Japan's strongest support for and continued commitment to be deeply involved in the long-term process towards the full and universal implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

Finally, let me introduce briefly our recent efforts to fight terrorism. Japan has continued support for the international community, especially in the field of capacity-building. After the latest briefings, Japan newly pledged approximately $3 million to support capacity building through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the Middle East and Africa, and to strengthen the legal regime against terrorism, as well as criminal justice and law enforcement capacities. Japan has also conducted dialogues and consultations with several countries to enhance capacities to cope with terrorism and share the practices and lessons learned. Last December, the leaders of Japan and the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) decided to strengthen cooperation in this area at the Japan-ASEAN Commemorative Summit in

Tokyo. Tomorrow, we are going to hold the ninth Japan-ASEAN dialogue on counter-terrorism in Singapore.

Japan expects that the three committees will continue to carry out their roles actively, and we will continue to support the efforts of the three committees.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Pakistan.

Mr. Masood Khan (Pakistan): We thank the Chairs of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning Counter-Terrorism for their comprehensive briefings today. We appreciate the coordination between the three Committees and the efforts being made by them to promote dialogue and transparency with Member States.

Pakistan strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes. Terrorism and extremism should not be associated with any religion, race, ethnicity, faith, value system, culture of society.

Pakistan has adopted a comprehensive approach that emphasizes the importance of development, dialogue and deterrence. If we are to attain sustainable solutions, we need to intensify our efforts to resolve festering conflicts and crises that spawn extremism. A comprehensive approach at the international level is also required to address the immediate issue of violence, as well as its root causes. The response of the international community has to be comprehensive, long-term and multi-pronged; it must involve dialogue among civilizations, economic development, cultural harmony, dispute resolution and political settlements.

Al-Qaida has changed in many ways. Self-radicalized individuals have made the prevention of terrorism more difficult. Terrorists now use electronic safe havens to host websites for inspiration and training. The Al-Qaida sanctions regime needs a more effective, targeted and evidence-based approach. It should use clear, fair and transparent procedures. The Ombudsperson's good work should be emulated in all other sanctions regimes and her role expanded to delisting issues. A large number of recommendations made by the Ombudsperson have led to the delisting of individuals and entities, clearly indicating that the Committee's listing process needs to be streamlined.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee efforts to build the capacities of States are very helpful. We particularly appreciate the focus of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate on assets freezes, the prosecution of terrorism cases, and seminars and workshops on specific themes it has held in various regions. In Islamabad in October 2013, Pakistan hosted the seventh regional workshop for judges, prosecutors and police officers in South Asia on effectively countering terrorism.

Pakistan fully supports the shared goal of preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors. The 1540 Committee has been a strong catalyst in preventing proliferation. It supports many treaty regimes and, even without being a treaty regime, ensures compliance through voluntary measures. We support the measures taken by the 1540 Committee and its experts in such areas as awareness-raising, outreach, implementation assistance and capacity-building. The Committee plays an important part in mobilizing assistance. It should enhance its matchmaking role by mapping assistance needs and working as a clearinghouse between assistance providers and recipients. As the Committee promotes universal reporting and implementation, assistance and capacity-building will serve as anchors for such activities.

Pakistan supports efforts to promote cooperation and coordination among the subsidiary bodies of the Council and their respective expert groups. This objective is best advanced when joint activities are conducted in close consultation with all Council members and are consistent with the mandate and nature of the work of each subsidiary body and expert group.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Belgium.

Ms. Frankinet (Belgium) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I should like in my national capacity to thank the delegations that have condemned the terrorist attack on the Jewish Museum in Brussels for their expressions of sympathy.

(*spoke in English*)

I am pleased to take the floor on behalf of the Group of Like-Minded States on Targeted Sanctions. This

group is comprised of Austria, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Belgium.

First of all, we thank the Committee Chairs for their informative briefings. We commend the Security Council for organizing this biannual meeting, and for creating the opportunity to discuss United Nations sanctions regimes.

The need to further develop fair and clear procedures in United Nations sanctions regimes is widely recognized, as we have heard again today. As in previous years, the Group of Like-Minded States aims to support the efforts of the Security Council to enhance the fairness and transparency of its various sanctions regimes, thereby contributing to their credibility and effectiveness. Much has been done with regard to the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities. In particular, the creation and strengthening of the Ombudsperson process were vital steps towards an independent and effective sanctions review mechanism.

However, considerable due process concerns persist and legal challenges have been filed in jurisdictions around the world. The ruling of the Court of Justice of the European Union in the *Kadi* case in July last year, concerning the Al-Qaida sanctions regime, is one of several judicial decisions confirming that in the implementation of United Nations measures, the actions of Member States are subject to full judicial review as to their conformity with fundamental norms, such as the right to be heard, the right to have access to one's file — subject to legitimate interests in maintaining confidentiality — the right to ascertain the reasons behind a decision, and the right to an effective remedy. The right to have cases decided upon within a reasonable time frame should also be respected. Therefore, as long as national and regional Courts consider United Nations sanctions to fall short of the minimum standards of due process, national authorities may find themselves unable to fully implement them at the national level.

In order to further strengthen the effectiveness of the United Nations sanctions regimes and in line with the continuous need to ensure due process, the Group of Like-Minded States on Targeted Sanctions invites the Security Council and Member States to consider the following proposals and ideas, which were submitted in writing on 17 April in document S/2014/286.

First, the Office of the Ombudsperson should be made permanent. That will give more weight and credibility to the Ombudsperson's work.

Secondly, information-sharing between Member States and the Ombudsperson, as well as between the Sanctions Committee and Member States, national or regional courts and other authorities should be improved.

Thirdly, transparency should be enhanced. All decisions regardless of whether they maintain a listing or delist an individual or entity should contain adequate and substantial reasons. Moreover, those reasons, as well as a redacted version of the comprehensive report of the Ombudsperson, should be published, while allowing for legitimate privacy, security and confidentiality interests to be adequately protected.

Fourthly, the Committees must continue to conduct the triennial review in a timely and thorough manner and to regularly inform Member States about the results of all reviews provided for under resolution 2083 (2012). In the course of the review, the Committee should actively confirm each listing in order to maintain it on the list. In so doing, the Committee should give reasons why a listing remains appropriate. In case a listing is not reviewed and confirmed within the required three-year period, it should automatically be deleted.

Besides these four proposals for the immediate future, the Group of Like-Minded States would also like to submit a few ideas for the longer term, aimed at ensuring the effectiveness of all the Council's sanctions regimes, while improving their fairness and thereby bringing them in line with human rights jurisprudence:

First, we recommend providing the Ombudsperson with the authority to decide, when a delisting request is made, whether to maintain a listing or to delist an individual or entity. At the same time, Member States and relevant international organizations and bodies should encourage individuals or entities that may consider challenging their listing through national and regional courts to first seek their removal from the Al-Qaida sanctions list by submitting delisting petitions to the Office of the Ombudsperson.

Secondly, we propose beginning a reflection on improving due process in other sanctions regimes as well, given that one of them is already subject to a

review by the European Court of Human Rights. We should consider gradually extending the important procedural safeguards of the Ombudsperson process to other appropriate sanctions regimes. In so doing, the need for possible adaptations to the Ombudspersons mandate should be explored. Besides that, other due process safeguards should be introduced in other sanctions regimes, such as informing in a timely manner the listed individual or entity of the designation and communicating a narrative summary of reasons for listing. Lastly, the holds procedure time limits adopted by the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) could be extended to other sanctions regimes.

The Group of Like-Minded States would be happy to further discuss these proposals with the members of the Security Council and all members of the General Assembly.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Jamaica.

Miss Richards (Jamaica): It is my distinct honour to register Jamaica's support for the innovative, integrated and coordinated approach outlined by the Chairmen of the Security Council's counter-terrorism committees, which will undoubtedly serve to advance our common efforts to prevent nonproliferation and to deepen our fight against terrorism.

Without question, Jamaica and other Member States from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) remain committed and resolute in meeting our obligations, particularly in relation to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), which together constitute the cornerstone of our continuing global efforts to prevent non-State and State actors alike from acquiring and using weapons of mass destruction or engaging in asymmetric warfare, including terrorism. We take these obligations seriously and always mindful of the fact that the maintenance of peace and security is indeed a shared responsibility and one that must be fully assumed by all within the international system.

Since 2009, CARICOM has demonstrated its full embrace of this reality with the institution of a region-wide initiative aimed at fully implementing resolution 1540 (2004). This mechanism, devised and constituted within the Caribbean Community, has allowed CARICOM members to effectively meet their responsibilities under the resolution and to advance national and regional non-proliferation activities in unprecedented ways.

It is important, however, to recognize that the genesis of this regional implementation initiative was the result of CARICOM members' recognition of the inherent challenges in devising national programmes and activities that would allow States to meet the necessary legal and enforcement obligations ensuing from the resolution, and to appropriate the necessary human and financial resources that this effort would require. Member States recognized that a regional programme to implement resolution 1540 (2004), which would leverage the considerable security cooperation that has existed within the region, would constitute the most logical and efficient way to address these priorities.

The submission by the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) fully demonstrates an appreciation of this innovative thinking, which will undoubtedly allow States like ours in the Caribbean Community, with limited resources, to better coordinate important non-proliferation mandates, such as that of resolution 1540 (2004), with other Security Council obligations. The submission also fully takes on board views recently expressed in the Council by the delegation of Australia, which has been clear and constant in its assertion that advancing non-proliferation goals cannot be piecemeal, but should be practical, coordinated, coherent and, indeed, appropriately linked to achieving Security Council aims in relation to terrorism and the implementation of relevant sanctions.

In this vein, Jamaica would also like to recognize the Government of Australia for its assistance to CARICOM in its efforts to leverage its existing 1540 implementation programme to now include initiatives that will be also counter-terrorism-focused, even as it continues to meet core obligations relating to non-proliferation.

We would further like to register our full support for the CTC and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate as it fashions practical approaches and mechanisms to ensure that States meet their obligations under resolution 1373 (2001) and fully undertake relevant legislative, regulatory and administrative action to implement the sanctions regimes, even while meeting important non-proliferation goals as required by resolution 1540 (2004). It is through that concerted and innovative

joint effort that we will continue to make meaningful and measurable gains in preventing proliferation and in providing Member States with the necessary tools to effectively confront terrorism in a comprehensive, coordinated and indeed successful way.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.